

SB0478- Written testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Atlaw, Elon

Position: FAV

Dear Maryland legislators,

My name is Elon Atlaw and I am an 11th grade student at Northwood Highschool I fully support the Dignity Not Detention Act being proposed to the Maryland General Assembly. I often hear officials claim that our immigration system is a civil and not a criminal matter. But if it prosecutes like the criminal justice system and detains like the criminal justice system then it is the criminal justice system. I think it's time that our state and country lives up to its promise of civil, dignified and humane immigration policy.

Respectfully,

Elon Atlaw

SB0478-FAV-DTMG-2-10-21.pdf

Uploaded by: Bartlett, Olivia

Position: FAV



Olivia Bartlett, Co-Lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

TESTIMONY ON: SB478 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings Committee

HEARING DATE: February 10,2021

POSITION: FAVORABLE

BILL CONTACT: Senator William Smith

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 2500 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, from Bethesda near the DC line north to Frederick and from Poolesville east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all the members of our communities healthy and safe in a clean environment, uplift all residents of our communities, and promote equity. DTMG strongly supports SB0375 because increasing public safety for all Maryland residents is a primary focus for our organization.

Many Marylanders are not aware of our role in warehousing immigrants. The federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) already has three immigration detention agreements with local county jails that allow counties to profit from the incarceration of detained immigrants. Counties like Howard, Frederick and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars each year by renting their bed space to ICE - incentivizing the incarceration of immigrants.

In Howard County's Jessup detention center, immigrants are being held for **alleged violations of civil not criminal law**. According to a recent Department of Homeland Security report, the Howard County Detention Center (HCDC) is **violating human decency** and ICE's own policies. A 2014 report came to similar conclusions. Despite these damning findings, HCDC authorities insist that practices like **strip-searches** and other documented atrocious treatment will continue unabated. The COVID-19 crisis is only heightening concerns about the safety of detainees.

Even worse, ICE is now contemplating yet another detention center, capable of incarcerating up to 800 people, in Maryland. This past April, ICE advertised on a federal contracts forum for one or more potential locations in Maryland. A location near Baltimore was considered initially, and ore recently, locations have been scouted in Queen Anne's County.

While civil rights advocates and activists have been working hard to ensure that new facilities don't get built in our state, legislators have a responsibility through legislative action to keep private, for profit immigration detention out of Maryland.

What does the Dignity Not Detention Act do?

SB0478 will

- Ban any new contracts or renewals of existing contracts with detention facilities operated wholly (or in part by) private corporations.
- Ensure that the public is adequately informed in any plans for a new private detention facility to take place.
- Require local entities that already have an existing immigration detention agreement (IGSAs) to terminate the contract by June 2021.

ICE has a well-documented history of inhumane treatment, inadequate medical care, and unsafe conditions that have put the lives of detained immigrants at risk for decades. ICE has failed to meet the demands of the pandemic, with the result that ICE detainees are 13X more likely to contract COVID than members of the general public. Urgent action is needed to protect the safety and the lives of immigrants in detention before it's too late.

SB0478, The Dignity Not Detention Act, is one step toward ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland. **This bill will keep ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland - and ensure that no local governments or corporations are profiting off of the incarceration and suffering of immigrants.**

DTMG strongly supports the enactment of SB0478 because it protects vulnerable members of our community. If a state has the right to punish those in our jurisdiction, it also has an obligation to protect them!

Therefore, DTMG strongly urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB478.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
Co-lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Beach, Jacqueline

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 41. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Beach
2366 Sundew Terrace
Baltimore, MD 21209
Showing Up for Racial Justice

AAJC_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Blank, Pablo

Position: FAV



February 7, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of the Dignity Not Detention bill (SB 478)

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC writes to express our strong support for the Dignity Not Detention Act (SB 478) and urge you to pass the bill out of committee. As detailed below, immigrant detention is harmful and unnecessary. This bill would prevent profit-driven expansion of detention in Maryland. Advancing Justice | AAJC works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans through advocacy, public policy, public education, and litigation. Founded in 1991, Advancing Justice | AAJC is one of the nation's leading experts on civil rights issues of importance to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community including immigration and immigrants' rights, census, hate incidents, language access, technology, and telecommunications, and voting rights.

Immigration is an important issue to Asian Americans. 92% of Asian Americans are immigrants or the children of immigrants. Maryland is home to over 415,000 Asian Americans making up 7% of the population. Around 266,000 of them are immigrants and around 39% of Maryland's Asian American population are limited English proficient. Overall, 15 percent of Marylanders are immigrants, and nearly 275,000 Marylanders are undocumented.¹ The issue of undocumented migration and immigration enforcement is often thought of only as a Latino issue. In fact, there are around 35,000 undocumented Asian immigrants living in Maryland.

Immigration detention separates families and results in rampant violations of immigrants' rights. While immigrant detention is technically "civil" in nature, it is substantially the same as criminal detention. In fact, it has been argued that ICE detention is worse than state or federal prison or jails as immigrants receive little to no services, such as support groups or counseling for addiction or victims of trauma or domestic violence.² While the Supreme Court originally allowed civil detention as an exception for people who are a "flight risk or danger to the community," it has ballooned over the past few decades to many people who are neither. The immigration detention system has grown nearly seven-fold since 1994, from an average daily

¹ All data in this testimony related to Asian Americans residing in Maryland can be found at aapidata.com.

² See our blog, "A Mother's Fight Against Deportation," which describes a former client's experience in detention. She was arrested for alcohol abuse driven by domestic violence and not allowed to attend AA meetings that criminal detainees attended. <https://medium.com/advancing-justice-aaajc/a-mothers-fight-against-deportation-e36e8aa3dc44>

detained population of 6,785 in 1994 to 45,890 as of February 2019. As of March 6, 2019, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had increased the average daily population of immigrant detainees to 50,049, a historic high. In comparison, by the end of President Obama's second term, the average daily population in immigration detention had reached just over 34,000. As of June 2018, 4,881 Asian immigrants were detained nationwide, many of whom were asylum seekers or refugees. The rapid expansion of detention over community-based alternatives to detention deeply harms immigrant communities.

Asian immigrants make up a significant portion of the population of detained immigrants nationally. As of June 2018, there were as many as 4,881 Asian immigrants in detention out of 50,000 total at the time. Many of them were asylum seekers who were seeking protection in the United States under our asylum laws. The majority of Asian immigrants detained were from India, China, Bangladesh, Nepal, Iraq, Vietnam, and Pakistan. Indian immigrants alone made up almost half of all detained Asian immigrants. Our current detention system impacts not only asylum seekers, but also immigrants including long-time members of our communities, lawful permanent residents (LPRs), and family members of U.S. citizens. Within the Asian American community, Southeast Asian refugees have been notably targeted. In June 2018, about 43% of Vietnamese Americans detained lived in the United States for over two decades. The percentage of Lao and Cambodian Americans detained who lived here for over twenty years is even higher at 86% and 75%, respectively. Southeast Asian households who have a family member that is detained face family separation and the continued hardship of not knowing whether their families will be able to reunite or be separated indefinitely.

Detention not only imposes significant legal obstacles for immigrants in accessing counsel but also often subjects immigrant detainees to deplorable human rights abuses. In detention facilities across the U.S., immigrants have been cruelly retaliated against for exercising their constitutional rights. South Asian asylum seekers protesting their prolonged detention by going on hunger strike have been retaliated against with solitary confinement and abusive force-feeding practices. South Asian and Sikh detainees have also been denied religious accommodations, including being banned from wearing their turbans, being forced to cut their hair, and not being provided with vegetarian or vegan meals. Detainees, including multiple Bangladeshi detainees at the Stewart Detention Facility in Georgia, have also been punished with solitary confinement for refusing to work for \$1 per day.

In detention facilities nationwide there have been cases of medical neglect and even illness-related deaths under the custody of ICE personnel. Detainees often receive dangerously inadequate medical care, including unreasonable delays in care, poor practitioner and nursing care, inadequate emergency response, and inappropriate use of solitary confinement for mentally ill and suicidal detainees. As of January 2019, 188 detainees had died in ICE detention facilities since 2003, the year the agency was established. During the first two years of the Trump

administration, 22 detainees died in ICE custody, and more immigrants died in detention in FY 2017 than in any year since 2009. A study of recent detainee deaths shows that about half of the deaths in ICE custody are attributable to inadequate medical care. Since March 2010, at least 74 people have died in immigration detention, but ICE has released death reviews in full or in part in only 52 of the cases. The number of miscarriages suffered by detained pregnant women also nearly doubled under the first two years of the Trump administration, with at least 18 women losing their pregnancies while in ICE detention in 2018 due to substandard medical care.

In May 2018, the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General conducted a surprise inspection of the Adelanto Detention Facility and the investigators concluded that conditions at the privately run facility amounted to “serious” violations of ICE’s own detention standards, representing “significant threats to the safety, rights, and health of detainees.” Violations included improper and overly restrictive use of solitary confinement, including placing detainees in disciplinary segregation without a hearing; delayed and grossly inadequate medical care, including doctors signing off on medical assessments that never happened; and a dentist refusing to fill cavities while suggesting detainees floss with strings pulled from their socks.

Immigrant detention is by and large unnecessary. The vast majority of detained immigrants are simply neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community. One alternative for released immigrant detainees, the Family Case Management Program had a 99 percent effectiveness rate — meaning almost every single person enrolled in the program showed up for all immigration appointments and court hearings.³ The perverse incentives of private prison corporations ought to be obvious. But perverse financial incentives also operate within federal contracts to local jails to house immigrant detainees. Local institutions too seek money to expand or maintain employees and facilities.

As an organization that engages in federal advocacy, we understand that the federal government will ultimately have to decide to end or scale back immigrant detention. But if states choose to restrict immigrant detention, it would have both a real impact on detention and send a powerful message to Congress and the President that Marylanders oppose immigrant detention. In my experience when states and localities take positions on immigration, their Congressional delegations follow their lead. We thank you for holding a hearing on this important bill and urge you to vote for it. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at messaheb@advancingjustice-aajc.org.

³ See Department of Homeland Security, OIG report “US ICE’s Award of the Family Case Management Program Contract” <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2017-12/OIG-18-22-Nov17.pdf> See also, ACLU blog The Tried-And-True Alternatives to Detaining Immigrant Families <https://www.aclu.org/blog/immigrants-rights/immigrants-rights-and-detention/tried-and-true-alternatives-detaining>

Sincerely,

Megan Essaheb
Director of Immigration Advocacy
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

APALA_FAV_SB478.pdf

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Position: FAV



Virginia Rodino, Chair
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, MD chapter
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SB 478/HB 016 — SUPPORT

Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee/House Judiciary Committee

February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Chapter of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, strongly supports SB 478, the Dignity not Detention Act. We are part of the national Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) which is the first and only national organization of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) workers and our allies advancing worker, immigrant and civil rights. Among other broad efforts, APALA works to defend and advocate for the civil and human rights of AAPIs, immigrants and all people of color.

Viewed as perpetual foreigners, the AAPI community is no stranger to racism and xenophobia in this country. We have seen firsthand the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act and the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. We have felt the pain of families torn apart with the increased deportations and criminalization of Southeast Asian community members. And we have witnessed hate violence against Muslim or perceived-to-be Muslim friends and family.

Painted as the “model minority,” we are also pitted against other immigrants and communities of color. Marching for justice after the beating of Rodney King at our founding convention, APALA is proud of our deep roots of solidarity and resistance. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, APALA will keep fighting for all communities under oppression.

Our racial and immigrant justice work currently focuses on opposing policies designed targeting, silencing, and oppressing our community members. We fight to protect family unity by defending family immigration and supporting comprehensive immigration reform.

We urge the passage of Dignity not Detention so that families can stay together and be healthy together. APALA MD urges you to support SB 478/HB 16.

Thank you,
Virginia Rodino
Chair, APALA MD

Councilmember Liz Walsh_FAV_SB478.pdf

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Position: FAV

Testimony of Council Chair Liz Walsh
Howard County Council, District 1
In Support of SB 478
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 10, 2021

Chairman Smith and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Liz Walsh, and I am a member of the Howard County Council, currently its Chair. Howard County is one of only three in Maryland that contracts with ICE to imprison immigration detainees at our local detention centers, for profit. That practice is racist. It is immoral. It must stop.

I strongly support SB478.

Last September, I introduced CB51-2020 which would have prohibited Howard County from accepting into its custody any ICE detainees awaiting disposition of immigration-related—purely civil, not criminal—proceedings. Two of my five colleagues on the Howard County Council—Deb Jung and Christiana Mercer Rigby—joined me in voting for the bill one month later. A majority of our County Council passed CB51, only to be vetoed days later by the County Executive. My county, Howard County, continues to hold civil ICE detainees in our local prison to this day.

As the ACLU of Maryland has so aptly put—over and over again—Maryland’s counties’ contracts with ICE enhance that agency’s ability to detain whomever it wants by the number of beds we continue to make available to ICE; we enhance that agency’s system capacity, nationwide. We enable that agency’s demonstrated penchant to threaten, detain and harm, discriminatorily, persons who live, who work, who love family members, here in our State. That would be reason enough to pass SB478.

So would the risk of serious illness, or worse, inflicted on these purely civil detainees subject to congregate living in the midst of a global pandemic, where detainees are transferred in and out on the whim of ICE.

Howard County presents one further compelling reason to end these ICE contracts now: our own inhumane treatment of those civil detainees while in our custody. An October 28, 2020 report of the Department of Homeland Security’s Inspector General documented extensive “violations of ICE detention standards that threatened the health, safety, and rights of detainees” by Howard County in its local detention center. Notable was our County’s never-before-seen practice of commingling civil ICE detainees with our own criminal inmates. In doing so, according to Donald Trump’s DHS, Howard County “inappropriately applied policies and practices intended for those in criminal custody to detainees meant to be held in civil custody while their immigration court proceedings are pending.” Those policies and practices included lengthy terms of solitary confinement, 57 days in one case. Our local detention center could not evidence to the DHS Inspector General basic provision of meals to the civil detainees, or necessary medical care. Most disturbing, though, was what the Inspector General termed “excessive” strip-searching. Every single time an ICE detainee leaves his housing unit in our local detention center, and again upon his return, he is strip-searched: like before and after he goes to meet with his attorney, or read something at the law library, or when he attends religious services at the chapel. Howard County, by its own local policy, strip-searches him. Every single time, twice. We do that to this day—demeaning, “invasive,” inhumane. A copy of the DHS report *ICE Needs to Address Concerns about Detainee Care and Treatment at the Howard County Detention Center* can be found here: <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2020-10/OIG-21-03-Oct20.pdf>

I do not understand how these practices can persist in my home county. I cannot reconcile the cruelty some of us still willingly condone at home with what we say we stand for, with what we all have borne witness to, endured, in this

heinous year. I cannot. The ICE contracts must end. They must end now. Thank you, Chairman Smith, for your leadership on this moral imperative.

Marcia Bravo_FAV_SB234.pdf

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Position: FAV

Marcia Bravo, Testimony in SUPPORT of SB234

Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access

January 27, 2021

Good Afternoon Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marcia Bravo and I am an immigrant from Nicaragua. I have lived here in the United States for almost 19 years. I was abroad for a while and then I returned. Members of the committee, I am writing to ask for your vote for SB234.

I have never had a pleasant experience with the police and the DMV. When I was living in North Carolina, the police would stop people all the time while driving. They would make people stay in the same place for a long time, sometimes all day, not caring about whether we had children with us or not. Sometimes the children would be crying with hunger and no one could remove them.

When I was living there, I was harassed and racially profiled so much. Sometimes, officers would stand on the same corners that we would travel and just wait for us, so that they could give us a ticket. It was so bad that in just a 6 month timeframe, I managed to get 7 tickets. The targeting was so bad that I left North Carolina.

Now that I am here in Maryland, I am so sad to hear that the MVA is helping ICE (who work with the police to racially target us) by sharing the personal information of drivers. I have personally met so many families who have been deported because of this. In one case, ICE arrived at the gentleman's home to arrest and deport him. He didn't do anything but get a driver's license. Because he ended up getting deported and had no other families in the country, he had to take his US citizen son with him back to Nicaragua. This completely tore their family apart and caused the son to suffer from severe mental illness.

Cases like this is why I believe that it is not fair for MVA to share information with ICE. You have made us believe that getting a driver's license is safe and that our information is private, but we know now that that is not true.

We are the human beings who came to this country escaping from the violence and conflicts of our countries. We came here hoping for something better, but arrived to the fear of basic things like getting a document that allows us to transport and identify ourselves.

By allowing the MVA to share data with ICE, you are aiding in separating families. It is damaging to the parents, but especially damaging for the children. For those reasons, please pass SB234.

MAREE_FAV_SB478.pdf

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Position: FAV



Maryland Alliance for
Racial Equity in Education

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB478

Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 10, 2021

Dear Honorable Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE) is pleased to provide favorable testimony for Senate Bill 478, Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition, or the Dignity Not Detention Act. MAREE is a coalition of education advocacy, civil rights, and community-based organizations committed to eliminating racial disparities in Maryland's education system. Our coalition is in strong agreement that 1) Maryland's state and local participation in detaining immigrants on behalf of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) must end and 2) private ICE detention centers do not belong in Maryland. The detention of immigrants in Maryland has had an extraordinarily negative impact on Black and Latinx students across the state.

With hundreds of immigrants currently detained in Maryland, the number of impacted children is immeasurable. The significant adverse emotional, developmental, educational, and mental outcomes that children face as a result of being detained or having a parent or family member incarcerated is well documented¹. Studies show that a family's income drops on average by 70 percent within six months of a parent's immigration-related arrest, detention, or deportation². From the loss of income of a detained parent or provider to the everyday stress of having a family member detained, an impacted student's education and overall health are put at risk. The consequences of ICE detention become drastically more severe for students during the pandemic when you consider the various other factors such as the digital divide, housing inequity, etc. – that disproportionately impact students of color.

While we understand the financial hardship that counties face right now, we cannot profit off detained immigrants to maintain our communities. We remain uncompromising in our belief that no person, county, state, or contractor should profit off of the incarceration of human beings. If Maryland continues to allow local detention partnerships with ICE and allows ICE to build private prisons in the state – it sends a clear message to our immigrant children that immigrants should be treated as profit. We cannot allow the separation of immigrant families through detention to continue – especially with the financial incentives that drive unfair targeting of immigrants of color. As we reimagine our public school system through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and other key legislation, we must also consider how deeply connected our students are to ICE detention and the impacts outlined above.

For these reasons, MAREE strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 478.

¹ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/us-citizen-children-impacted-immigration-enforcement>

² <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/deferred-action-unauthorized-immigrant-parents-analysis-dapas-potential-effects-families>

1977 II Action Group
ACLU Maryland
Attendance Works
Baltimore Corps
CASA
Caucus of African American Leaders
Family League of Baltimore
Greater Baltimore Urban League
NAACP Maryland State Conference
Strong Schools Maryland
The Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence
The Education Trust
Uplift
Urban Teachers

NILC_FAV_SB478.pdf

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Position: FAV



February 10, 2021

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Testimony in support of SB 478 -- “Correctional Services -- Immigration Detention -- Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)”

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

The National Immigration Law Center submits this testimony in support of SB 478, which ends the expansion of unaccountable and inhumane private immigration detention centers. The legislation does so by prohibiting new contracts with private detention facilities, phasing out existing contracts, and giving notice to the public if the state authorizes zoning for private detention facilities.

Established in 1979, NILC is one of the leading organizations in the United States dedicated exclusively to defending and advancing the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their families. We have decades of experience providing technical assistance, training and publications to government agencies, legal services, and non-profit organizations across the country.

We urge you to support SB 478 for the following reasons:

Abuse and Inhumane Conditions Run Rampant in Immigration Detention Centers.

Reports across the country and in Maryland reveal an inhumane and dangerous environment in immigration detention centers that includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse as well as lack of adequate medical care.¹ Private detention facilities are designed to maximize profit at the expense of life, leading private companies to cut costs by rationing basic supplies and medical care for detainees. At the private detention center in Howard County, Maryland, the Department

¹ See Gregory Hooks & Bob Lidal, *Hotbeds of Infection: How ICE Detention Contributed to the Spread of COVID-19 in the United States*, Detention Watch Network, 3 (Dec. 2020).

of Homeland Security found many violations of DHS' own standards that "threatened the health, safety and rights of detainees."²

In defiance to these inhumane conditions, the Dignity Not Detention Act creates safer communities by reuniting family members with their loved ones, strengthening social networks, and stabilizing household incomes that are stripped away when someone is detained. In sum, this Act not only starts to reduce the harms and traumas of private detention centers, but also reinvigorates safer communities by recognizing that no one should be detained for civil immigration violations.

COVID Outbreaks at Detention Centers Are an Immediate Threat to Maryland Communities.

Detainees face an increased risk of COVID-19 infection. Unhealthy and crowded conditions make detention centers especially dangerous for transmission of the virus. Even so, federal judges in Maryland have repeatedly denied release even to the most vulnerable populations facing COVID-19.

Making matters worse, COVID outbreaks inside detention facilities can easily spread beyond the facilities, putting all Marylanders at greater risk of infection. A recent report by Detention Watch Network found that the presence of immigration detention facilities significantly increases the net additional cases of COVID-19 in the surrounding community due to spread from private detention facilities to the outside community.³ These dangers make it clear that now is not the time to increase the prison population or build new detention centers because it presents risks to Marylanders both inside and outside the facilities.

SB 478 Increases Transparency and Accountability Surrounding Immigration Detention.

It is difficult for the public to know what goes on behind the walls of private detention centers. As private contractors, they limit media access to their facilities and often refuse to answer public records requests about their conditions and practices. Lack of transparency is also compounded by scarce government oversight, where private detention centers are only inspected once a year to see if they meet the National Detention Standards (Immigration and Custom Enforcement's standards for safety, security, order, and care at all its facilities.) In a January 2019 report, the Office of the Inspector General found that immigrant detention facilities had violated national standards thousands of times between 2015 and 2018 but had only been fined for violations twice.⁴ Moreover, inspections are often contracted out to other private contractors, increasing the lack of oversight, transparency and accountability.

² Joseph V. Cuffari. *ICE Needs to Address Concerns about Detainee Care and Treatment at the Howard County Detention Center*. Dept. of Homeland Security: Office of Inspector General, 1 (Oct. 28, 2020) available at <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2020-10/OIG-21-03-Oct20.pdf>

³ See Hooks & Lidal, *supra* note 1 at 22.

⁴ Office of Inspector General, *ICE Does Not Fully Use Contracting Tools to Hold Detention Facility Contractors Accountable for Failing to Meet Performance Standards*, Dept. of Homeland Security (Jan. 29, 2019) OIG-19-18.

This lack of transparency shields private corporations from accountability and protects their profits. Once corporations have contracts for detention centers, these entities lobby to fill beds and keep their profits up. Decisions about who should be detained and why should not be influenced by a bottom line, but through our representative democracy.

These contracts with ICE and private corporations shield those entities from accountability while putting the blame for public health risk and human rights abuses on Maryland state and local officials. Ending contracts with private companies holds them accountable for dangerous detention conditions and prevents future abuses. SB 478 will keep Maryland fair and safe. This Act ensures Marylanders are adequately informed before new private detention facilities are built, increasing accountability to Maryland community members as well as state and local governments.

SB 478 Upholds Maryland Values by Ending the Expansion of Inhumane Immigration Detention

Human caging goes against the values of the Maryland General Assembly and the core of what it means to be a Marylander: fairness, putting families first and upholding human dignity. By ending the expansion of unaccountable, inhumane private immigration detention centers, the Dignity Not Detention Act sends a clear message that the state of Maryland values all of its constituents. Leading to fewer Marylanders in detention, this Act protects detainees and other community members from increased exposure to COVID-19 and ends Maryland's relationship with private detention centers that promulgates the aforementioned inhumane conditions and abuse of detainees. As the author of this Act state, "no one... should profit from human misery."⁵

Conclusion

For the reasons described above, we urge you to provide a favorable report on SB 478.

Sincerely,



Shiu-Ming Cheer
Director of Movement Building & Strategic Partnerships

⁵ Delegate Vaughn Stewart, author of Dignity not Detention Act *as quoted in* Lillian Reed, *Maryland lawmaker aims to ban private immigration detention centers in the state as ICE seeks facility here*, Baltimore Sun (Dec. 19, 2019) *available at* <https://www.baltimoresun.com/politics/bs-md-ci-sudlersville-ica-ice-20191217-20191218-2zexe7cgybcmndc3jtksoqgiye-story.html>.

Veronica Gasca_Blanca Gasca_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Blank, Pablo

Position: FAV

Veronica Gasca, Blanca Gasca, Testimony in SUPPORT of SB478
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 10, 2021

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share our experience. Our names are Veronica Gasca and Blanca Gasca. We are system from immigrated here from Mexico. We are both mothers of two and three children. We have a little family business in Baltimore called "Gasca Fiesta Renta". We have always had to support each other since we arrived in the country 15 years ago.

We were only 11 and 13 years old when we came to this county to reunite with our father. But the day that we arrived at the airport, we were told that our father was detained by immigration on his way to work. We were only kids and we left alone and with the burden of also taking care of our younger siblings who were only 7 and 9 years old. To take care of them, we sacrificed the opportunity to study and managed to find work. Not knowing the language and not knowing our rights, we lived in fear of calling the police for help and one day found ourselves homeless. It was very difficult but nothing was impossible.

Now, we, thanks to CASA, have learned more about our rights and how to fight for our community. We are here today because we have experienced how detention can impact families and we ask you to pass the Dignity Not Detention Act so that families can stay together. It is very difficult for children to make it when a parent is in detention. We know because it happened to us.

We ask that the committee please vote yes to SB478.

Veronica Gasca, Blanca Gasca
Dundalk, Maryland

Diginity Not Detention Act Testimony_AnaiyaBobo.pd

Uploaded by: Bobo, Anaiya

Position: FAV

My name is Anaiya Bobo, and I support the passage of the Dignity Not Detention Act (SB0478) for the protection it offers to Maryland immigrant families. Every day, dozens of Maryland, Virginia and DC residents suffer in immigration detention. Oftentimes, families hoping to get in touch with their friends/relatives in detention are met with adversity or concealed information. The passage of this act works to hold government authority accountable for its actions, demanding more transparent communication between these organizations and the public. Additionally, the act works to prevent the expansion of Maryland immigrant detention centers. This action is especially prevalent now with facilities looking to expand into the Mid-Atlantic Region - many of which are run by private entities noted for their poor building maintenance (i.e. ICA). With immigrants making up roughly 15% of Maryland's population, this act offers a shield to families to many of our local communities. This act will grant support to thousands of families, offering security that they deserve.

CDC Testimony DND 2.pdf

Uploaded by: Braganca, Meagan

Position: FAV



**Legislative Committee/Immigration Issues Team
Columbia Democratic Club
Testimony on Correctional Services- Immigration Detention-
Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention)**

HB16/SB478

Bill Sponsors: Senator: Will Smith Delegate: Vaughn Stewart

Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee; Judiciary Committee

Persons Submitting: Meagan Braganca, Legislative Chair Columbia Democratic Club

Position: Favorable

Dear Chairs Smith and Clippinger and Members of the Judicial Proceedings and Judiciary Committees,

The Columbia Democratic Club Immigration Team requests your support for HB16/SB478 Dignity not Detention, which will limit immigrant detention centers in Maryland.

The Columbia Democratic Club is the oldest and most active Democratic organization in Howard County, reaching more than 500 Maryland residents committed to electing Democratic candidates and advancing policy ideas. (<https://www.facebook.com/columbiademclub/>)

The Dignity not Detention Act (HB16/SB478) will go a long way to protecting all Maryland residents. HB16 will:

- Prohibit any new contracts or renewals of existing contracts with detention facilities operated by private corporations
- Ensure that the public is adequately informed about any plans for a new private detention facility
- Require local entities that already have an existing immigration detention agreement (IGSAs) to terminate the contract by June 2021.

Public and private detention centers have a well-documented history of abusing detainees and providing sub-standard care. A recent investigation of the Howard County Detention Center (HCDC) conducted by the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security reported: *violations of ICE detention standards that threatened the health, safety, and rights of*

detainees...We determined HCDC excessively strip-searched ICE detainees leaving their housing unit to attend activities within the facility, in violation of ICE detention standards and the facility's own search policy. <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2020-10/OIG-21-03-Oct20.pdf>

Anecdotal reports suggest that abuses also occur at in detention centers in Worcester and Frederick counties which also have IGSA with ICE

Maryland should not cooperate with nor profit from organizations like the Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) which engages in racial profiling, terrorizes communities, detains people without judicial warrants, and separates families.

Almost all the detainees in Howard County are from Mexico, Central America, and Africa. America has a long history of making money off Black and Brown people. We should not continue this cruel legacy in Maryland. According to the Howard County Detention Center Revenue Sheets from the ICE contract, the county made a profit of \$1.9 million in 2018 and \$2 million in 2019. These profits were enhanced by providing substandard meals, hygiene, and healthcare as documented by DHS. We should not profit from detaining human beings.

Public misconceptions as well as profit fuel support for detention centers. Far from posing a danger to the public, most undocumented immigrants are peaceful hard-working people who contribute to our communities. According to the American Immigrant Council and other sources, undocumented immigrants in Maryland paid an estimated \$373.5 million in federal taxes and \$242.3 million in state and local taxes in 2018.

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-maryland>

Detaining immigrants makes everyone less safe. Foreign-born residents and their documented relatives will be considerably less likely to report crimes or otherwise cooperate with police if they fear being detained and incarcerated. Cooperation will decrease with each new facility set up. Detained immigrants have less access to attorneys and cannot work to support their families and pay legal fees.

ICE is looking to build more detention centers in Maryland. We should not let this happen, and we should close existing detention centers.

The Columbia Democratic Club Immigration Team urges you to pass HB16/SB478 as written and create a safer, more inclusive Maryland.

Columbia Democratic Club Immigration Team

Jake Burdett, President

Jakeburdett11@gmail.com

Columbia Democratic Club

SB0478 Dignity Not Detention.pdf

Uploaded by: Cantori, Renee

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY FOR SB0478
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – IMMIGRATION DETENTION - PROHIBITION
(DIGNITY NOT DETENTION ACT)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Person Submitting: Renee Cantori, Annapolis, MD
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0478. My mother was an immigrant, my father was the child of immigrants, and I have many friends and family members who are immigrants with varying degrees of legal status. And I help and have helped many newcomers over the past few decades. These friends, family, neighbors, they are just like you and me. They are hard-working and seek a good and safe life for themselves and their families...and they live in fear every day. Every day, I fear “the call” when I find out that one of my friends, or family, or those that I help may be picked up and detained. I have gotten these calls, and I can tell you, if there are extremely unsettling for me, then they’re absolutely terrifying for the immigrant and his or her family.

For money, they are being preyed upon. County governments are making contracts with private companies to do ‘their bidding’. These companies have questionable accountability and seek to profit from a person’s misfortune. We shut down 287G here in Anne Arundel County. ALL local governments, counties or sheriff’s offices should be prevented from entering into contracts for detention facilities for immigrants in Maryland. And similarly, entities within ALL counties should be prohibited from contracting with private firms to own or manage such facilities. And any existing detention facilities that fit the descriptions above should be shut down.

Bottom line? The way things are operating now is not the Maryland, or America that I wish to live in. Pls support SB0478.

SB478_LatinoCaucus_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Caucus, MD Latino

Position: FAV



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Senator William C. Smith Jr, Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

DATE: February 10, 2021

RE: SB478 Correctional Services – Immigration Detention –
Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

The MLLC supports SB478 Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act).

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of SB478.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) private detention centers are motivated by one thing: profits. ICE and private prison companies exploit immigrant communities, largely who are Latino, and target jurisdictions that may need extra revenue. This business approach of immigration is deceitful, dehumanizing, and as a result treats people as commodities. [2017 ICE data](#) suggests that about 71% of immigrants are detained in a privately run facility. In recent years, ICE focused on detaining all undocumented individuals, yet most detainees were [categorized](#) as “no threat” or “non-criminal.” Immigrants who are trying to build a better life for themselves and their family have a price over their heads.

Due to their bottom-line priority, private prison companies are also not compelled to maintain healthy and safe environments for detained immigrants. Nor do they have to because many are granted federal [waivers](#) that exempt them from complying with federal performance standards. Private prison companies would rather invest in more beds than in adequate food and medical care. Throughout the nation, there have been many [reports](#) of abuse, sexual assault, and even deaths in these centers. The legislature must rectify this gross, inhumane treatment of immigrants.

SB478 prohibits the State or any local jurisdictions from creating new ICE contracts with private detention companies and requires existing contracts to phase out by 2022. Maryland must stop the commercialization of family separations and incarceration. Families are being torn apart, lives are shaken and uprooted, and communities are instilled with fear because of greed. We stand with our vulnerable immigrant populations to end these ICE contracts.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on SB478.

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.pdf

Uploaded by: Chan, Sam

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 45. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Chan
207 E. Preston St Apt3A
Baltimore MD 21202
Showing Up for Racial Justice

SB0478 Testimony DNDA.pdf

Uploaded by: Cocke, Abigail

Position: FAV



Many struggles, one mission.

Testimony SUPPORTING SB0478

February 7, 2021

Dear members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Abby Cocke, and I am a resident of Baltimore City in District 43 and a strong supporter of SB0478. On behalf of Baltimore for Border Justice, a local advocacy and aid organization, I am submitting this testimony to urge you to SUPPORT SB0478, *Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)*. The profit motive should never be a part of justice, and it is especially grotesque when applied to the detention of immigrants and asylum-seekers. In addition to being a perverse incentive that rewards expansion of our already-bloated system of incarceration, it demonstrably leads to even poorer and less transparent conditions. It is essential that we prohibit this abomination in our state now, before it takes hold.

In April 2019, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) advertised for private contractors to open a new Baltimore-area immigration detention center to house up to 800 people. Since these sorts of arrangements invariably involve kickbacks to local governments, this would create a monetary incentive for ramped up raids on immigrant communities to fill this new facility and keep the funds flowing. Preying on the bodies of vulnerable people and breaking up families in the name of profit hearkens back to our shameful history of slave catchers. Not only will undocumented immigrants be targeted, increased ICE presence will also impact all Hispanic Americans through profiling.

One of the companies that responded to the ICE advertisement was Immigration Centers of America (ICA), which runs a private immigrant detention facility in Farmville, Virginia. This facility has a long and dark history of abuses. When Baltimore for Border Justice wrote to this committee about last year's version of this bill, we outlined some of the worst of ICA's actions and inactions known at the time, but this past year has brought a new suite of horrors. In August 2020, nearly 90% of detainees at ICA's Farmville facility had tested positive for Covid-19. Despite having by far the worst outbreak at any similar facility in the country, resulting in at least one death attributed to the virus, inmates remain warehoused in bunk beds mere feet apart, receive only Tylenol in response to any coronavirus symptoms short of those requiring hospitalization, and are pepper-sprayed in response to hunger strikes. Rates of Covid-19 in surrounding communities with immigrant detention centers are, unsurprisingly, higher than those without them – we all pay the price when we allow the most vulnerable to be treated so incredibly poorly.

It would be a disaster for Baltimore to have a detention facility like the one in Farmville. Baltimore has always been a popular destination for new immigrants, and that remains true today – we are one of seven jurisdictions in Maryland where immigrants have stopped or slowed population loss in recent years. According to the nonpartisan Fiscal Policy Institute, immigrants make up 9% of Baltimore's population, but 12% of the workforce. They are statistically more likely to start new businesses and less likely to commit crime. But most importantly, THEY ARE PEOPLE, and we will not see their suffering be used to line pockets.

Thank you for your attention and for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,

Abby Cocke
Co-founder, Baltimore for Border Justice
Bmore4borderjustice@gmail.com
443-631-0432

SB0478_testimony_NDoty.pdf

Uploaded by: Doty, Nathaniel

Position: FAV

Greetings -

My name is Nate Doty and I am a nearly lifelong resident of Maryland, currently living in the 21218 zip code in Baltimore City. I work for a local nonprofit in a program that works to provide energy efficiency products and education to low to moderate income residents, and work along side a training program that helps returning citizens develop applicable skills for careers in the green energy and green homes fields.

I often interact with residents and trainees who have been through the criminal justice system, and while I have not personally had such experiences, their stories and struggles have helped bring an otherwise abstract understanding of that system into much more clear focus. I strongly believe that for-profit prisons and detention centers do far more to help enrich the owners and operators of such ventures than to rehabilitate and enrich those individuals that are relegated to their halls.

A system that allows for profiting off of detaining individuals puts the business and financial considerations ahead of the human persons that are under the care. The focus becomes more on making money than on rehabilitating individuals and making a positive impact on their lives or on the wider community. Such a system opens the door for dehumanization, commodification, and abuse. The drive to "fill beds" and line pockets by housing convicted individuals is an amazingly capitalist byproduct of a society that seeks to uphold law and order and the almighty dollar over human rights and socially meaningful personal fulfillment. For-profit detention centers employ deployable tactics such as using inmates for cheap labor and neglecting any sort of true rehabilitation that leads to high recidivism to keep a (literally) captive market financially productive. I cannot help but draw a parallel between such businesses and the tobacco industry, or the peddlers or addictive drugs. What better way to ensure your income than to trap your clients in addiction, or in this case, incarceration?

Flatly speaking, there should be no profit when it comes to incarceration. Any surplus funds should be funneled back to the individuals detained at such places, whether that be for improved facilities, better meals and resources, or programs that aim to actually rehabilitate. I imagine that most crime comes of necessity and not malice, so we as a society should aim to reform criminals back into socially and economically productive members of society. Certainly we should not be seeking to maximize profit while doing little to prepare them for "life outside" all but guaranteeing that they will have neither the resources nor the skills to avoid a situation that will lead them back into the system, once again benefiting owners and shareholders in these companies that care more about the dollar than the person.

On top of all of this, I strongly believe that ICE and its contractors have acted deplorably, that the very nature of immigration-related detention facilities is wide open to unethical and racist practices, and that I certainly do not want to invite such practices into my state. Maryland has its share of problems, but I am thankful that, so far, for profit detention centers are not one of them. I would like to see it stay that way.

Thank you,
Nate Doty

Baltimore Resident
7th MD Congressional District
43th MD Legislative District

02.08.20_NDvorak Testimony for SB478_Dignity Not D

Uploaded by: Dvorak, Nicole

Position: FAV

Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
RE: Testimony In SUPPORT of SB478 - Dignity Not Detention

February 8, 2021

Greetings Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and Staff,

I live in Howard County, Maryland, in Senator Katie Fry Hester's district, and I 100% support SB478, also called *Dignity Not Detention*. As you are likely already aware, Howard County is one of three Counties in Maryland that currently has an agreement/contract with ICE to detain immigrants.

That Howard County has profited off of the rampant racial profiling and well-documented, horrifying abuses of ICE for the past 25 years is unforgivable. How the majority of our County's Elected officials have chosen to participate, condone, and stay silent on such injustice, for so long, is shameful.

I stand with well-respected human rights organizations who, during the 2020 MGA session, supported this legislation, including CASA, Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services, ACLU of Maryland, Jews United for Justice, Congregation Action Network, and many others.

Some of the many reasons I support this legislation are as follows, and I provide more details farther below:

- 1) **No one, including Howard County, should be profiting off of human rights abuses**, which includes ICE's rampant racial profiling and other unmitigated abuse.
- 2) **Detention is not the answer**. To legitimately be close to their families, and their lawyers, those accused should actually be with their families and not thrown in a cell. The pandemic has made it even harder to reach those in detention.
- 3) Anyone detained is NOT safe in the Howard County Detention Center (HCDC). **HCDC Correctional staff are guilty of gross medical neglect**, verbal abuse, and more. [Detainees have provided their first-hand accounts of this abuse](#).
- 4) **ICE detainees are at extremely high risk of contracting COVID-19**. ICE detainees are **at least** 13x more likely to contract COVID than the outside population, according to [a report published by JAMA](#) (the Journal of the American Medical Association).

I look forward to the passage of SB478, and to Dignity, and not Detention. Thank you for your time, and your service.

Kind regards,

Nicole Dvorak
Howard County, MD (Ellicott City, 21043)

More details in support of SB048 - Dignity Not Detention:

MYTH: “But we need to keep Howard County’s contract with ICE so that immigrants can stay closer to their families, who live nearby.”

TRUTH: If people REALLY wanted immigrants to stay closer to their families, they wouldn’t arrest and detain them to begin with, but they could just as easily use the option of an ankle monitor so that those accused by ICE could still be with their families. These folks might be the primary bread-winner for their families, they might be a single parent, they might provide critical support for their friends AND their community. It IS critical that they not be detained and thrown in a cell, where they aren’t near their families, or their lawyers, at all. During COVID, the challenges with communicating to those held in detention is even more challenging than it was before.

MYTH: “But Howard County treats its ICE detainees better than in other places. They are safer here.”

TRUTH: First-hand accounts of those detained at HCDC describe how Howard County Detention Center correctional staff are guilty of gross medical neglect, verbal abuse, and giving detainees spoiled food, at a minimum. Please read the first-hand accounts of detainees’ stories here, published by Maryland Matters on August 19, 2020: “Ex-inmates Tell Their Stories as Criticism of Ho.Co ICE Contract Intensifies,”

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/2020/08/19/ex-inmates-tell-their-stories-as-criticism-of-howard-co-ice-contract-intensifies/>

Also, as reported in a December 2020 DHS Office of Inspector General Report, Howard County Detention Center correctional staff could not prove that they fed detainees 3 meals a day, did not document the reasons as to why detainees were excessively strip-searched (including after they left the Chapel, which is located within the detention center itself), and kept a detainee in solitary confinement for nearly 60 days. The link to that report is here:

<https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2020-10/OIG-21-03-Oct20.pdf>.

The DHS report was covered by the Washington Post on October 30, 2020, here: “Immigrants held at Md. jail were excessively strip-searched, according to DHS Inspector General,”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/ice-immigrant-detainees-strip-search/2020/10/30/f5a68d00-1aa1-11eb-bb35-2dcfdab0a345_story.html

Note: Solitary confinement for even a few days is considered torture by those who have suffered directly, and thus also by any respectable humans rights organization. More info can be found here, detailed by former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez: “Solitary confinement should be banned in most cases, UN expert says,”

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2011/10/392012-solitary-confinement-should-be-banned-most-cases-un-expert-says>

What is even more horrifying, on top of all of this? According to an October 2020 report in JAMA (the Journal of the American Medical Association), ICE detainees are *at least* 13x more likely to contract COVID-19 than the outside population. Medical care in jails, prisons, etc. was already a crisis

pre-COVID, but this statistic is staggering, and is in every way a public health crisis within an existing public health nightmare. Information on when ICE detainees will be vaccinated, and by whom, is limited.

JAMA Report citation:

Erfani P, Uppal N, Lee CH, Mishori R, Peeler KR. COVID-19 Testing and Cases in Immigration Detention Centers, April-August 2020. JAMA. Published online October 29, 2020.

doi:10.1001/jama.2020.21473 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2772627>

In Support of SB 478 - UULM-MD -Robert Cullen - Go

Uploaded by: Egan, Ashley

Position: FAV



**Testimony in Support of SB 478 - Correctional Services – Immigration Detention
– Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)**

3111 Mary Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21214

February 7, 2021

To the Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing in support of the Dignity Not Detention Act (SB 478). This bill is a critically needed measure that would help reduce widespread exploitation of the incarceration and hardships of immigrants here in Maryland.

If passed by the Maryland General Assembly and signed into law by the governor, this measure would prohibit new contracts or renewal of existing contracts with state-based detention facilities operated either entirely or in part by private corporations; guarantee that the general public is sufficiently informed of any plans for new detention facilities within Maryland's borders; and require local entities with immigration detention agreements now in place to terminate those contracts once and for all by June of this year.

I want to underscore how these detention facilities here in the Free State have too often become high-risk and even deadly places for many immigrants who have been incarcerated for what are at most civil violations. As detainees, these individuals have been inhumanely subjected to everything from a disproportionate number of strip searches to abysmal medical services.

Our state can do better, must do better, to ensure that the rights of immigrants among us are not trampled on and that these individuals are likewise given the safe and equitable treatment that we all deserve. As far as this social justice priority is concerned, SB 478 is not a panacea; it is a vital step in the right direction, however.

So please, please, please search your hearts, look way beyond the profit motive of private corporations, embrace the public good instead, and vote in favor of SB 478. Thank you for giving this crucial bill your fullest and fairest consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Cullen

Robert Cullen

Support of SB 478 Dignity Not Detention-UULM-MD Ji

Uploaded by: Egan, Ashley

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Shared Voices for Liberal Religious Values in Maryland

Testimony in Support of SB 478 - Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

To: Senator William Smith, Jr., Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings
Committee

From: Jim Caldiero, Co-Chair, Immigration Task Force, Unitarian Universalist Legislative
Ministry of Maryland

Date: February 10, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 478 which bans any new contracts or renewals of existing contracts with detention facilities operated wholly (or in part by) private corporations; ensures that the public is adequately informed in any plans for a new private detention facility to take place; requires local entities that already have an existing immigration detention agreement (Intergovernmental Service Agreement or IGSA) to terminate the contract by October 1, 2022. Last session the bill was introduced as SB 850/HB 677

Detention in these facilities is deadly. Twenty-six immigrant detainees have died while in ICE custody under the Trump administration, fifty-six have died during the Obama administration. (before COVID-19); See the report, [Fatal Neglect, How ICE Ignores Deaths in Detention](#). The death toll has only been rising during the pandemic with reports from all over the country of substandard medical care and more. Despite ICE's mean daily detained population decreasing significantly, the COVID-19 case rate among detainees was on average more than 13 times the rate of the US population. ICE data shows a total of 7,292 confirmed coronavirus cases among detainees with outbreaks happening in detention centers all over the country such as the center in Farmville, VA. That has led to the death of at least one person, with more than 250 people infected with COVID-19.

As you may be aware, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has IGSA's with three county detention centers – Frederick, Howard and Worcester. These counties are profiting from the inhumane and immoral detention of individuals who in most cases have committed only civil immigration violations.

I am sure that you are aware of the recent Washington Post article that detailed a DHS Inspector General report about the state of the Detention Center in Jessup, Howard County. My Unitarian Universalist faith calls me to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to promote and affirm justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Surely, these values are embraced by all the citizens of Maryland and its

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.twitter.com/uulmmd

government which have a long history of supporting and protecting human rights. By enacting SB 478, we can ensure fair and safe treatment for all our neighbors.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 478

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Caldiero

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Email: immigration@uulmmd.org

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland, 333 Dubois Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 266-8044, info@uulmmd.org

Sources:

Fatal Neglect.

<https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/sites/default/files/reports/Fatal%20Neglect%20A%20CLU-DWN-NIJC.pdf>

7,292 Confirmed Covid-19 Cases. <https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus#citations>

Outbreak in Farmville.

<https://prospect.org/justice/farmville-ice-facility-almost-every-detainee-has-coronavirus/>

DHS IG Report, Jessup Detention Center,

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/ice-immigrant-detainees-strip-search/2020/10/30/f5a68d00-1aa1-11eb-bb35-2dcfdab0a345_story.html

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TESTIMONY ON SB 478- UULM-MD-Perry Beider.pdf

Uploaded by: Egan, Ashley

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Shared Voices for Liberal Religious Values in Maryland

TESTIMONY ON SB 478, THE “DIGNITY NOT DETENTION” ACT FOR THE FEBRUARY 10th HEARING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE POSITION: FAVORABLE

SUBMITTED BY

Perry Beider

4011 Rickover Road

Silver Spring, MD 20902

To: Senator William Smith, Jr., Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

I strongly support SB 478, the “Dignity Not Detention Act” sponsored by Chairman Smith. As you know, the bill would prohibit involvement by private entities in the operation of immigration detention facilities; require adequate public notice of any plans for a new private detention facility; prohibit state and local government entities entering into or renewing any immigration detention agreement with the federal government, and require entities with existing agreements to exercise the termination provisions no later than October 1, 2022.

The merit of some of those provisions should be blindingly obvious. Of course detention, the deprivation of an individual’s liberty, is an inherently governmental function—and the potential for abuse when a for-profit entity is involved is too great to be countenanced. Fortunately, no private entities are involved in the operation of Maryland’s three immigration detention centers; SB 478 would merely maintain the sensible state of affairs that already exists.

So I want to focus on the part of SB 478 that is likely to arouse the most controversy: the requirement that Frederick, Howard, and Worcester counties end their agreements with the federal Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) by October 2022. The argument surely will be raised that SB 478 encroaches on the prerogatives of local jurisdictions. But let’s be clear: the issue is money. The counties would have no interest in detaining people for suspected violations of civil immigration laws if ICE were not paying them to do so. In effect, the three counties are renting out their law enforcement authority, their coercive police powers, for profit. That is NOT a legitimate exercise of local discretion. It cannot be acceptable in Maryland (the Free State!) for basic human rights like freedom of movement to vary from one jurisdiction to another, or for individual governments to decide that they will use vulnerable residents as tools to help balance their budgets.

For-profit companies should have no role in detaining immigrants, and Maryland counties should not be acting like for-profit companies in detaining immigrants for ICE. I urge the members of the Committee to pass SB 47, without any weakening amendments.

Thank you for your attention.

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd [www.Twitter.com/uulmmd](https://www.twitter.com/uulmmd)

In favor SB0478.pdf

Uploaded by: Emmanuelle, Colline

Position: FAV

February 8, 2021

Dear Senator Smith,

I am writing to you in favor of Bill SB0478, the Dignity Not Detention Act, to prevent any new detention centers being built in Maryland.

Maryland should not be profiting off of the detainment of immigrants, who are regularly mistreated in detention centers. Residents in the areas of future proposed centers have adamantly opposed these centers. Our state and local entities should not enter into any new contracts or renew any existing contracts for these for-profit detention facilities.

These centers harm our neighbors and profit off of incarceration and mistreatment.

Immigrants are a valued and important part of our community and should be protected, which is why I am writing in favor of bill SB0478.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation that protects all Maryland residents.

Sincerely,

Colline Emmanuelle
Maryland resident and community member

Support SB0478_Dignity Not Detention_Letterhead wi

Uploaded by: Enagonio, Liz

Position: FAV



Indivisible: Central Maryland

Susan Radke, Advocate

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SB0478 Correctional services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Note Detention Act)_Indivisible Central Maryland_Enagonio Liz_SUPPORT.

Indivisible Central Maryland SUPPORTS SB0478. Our organization works to ensure justice and equality for all, especially those who have not traditionally benefitted from equal treatment. Our core mission includes advocating for fair immigration policy.

We believe that the enforcement of civil immigration law is the exclusive responsibility of the federal government. As such, we believe that the management and operation of detention centers for immigrants is also the function of federal officials who are trained to understand and respect the CIVIL nature of detention, and to understand the languages and cultural needs of a diverse group of individuals seeking asylum and/or fleeing persecution. We believe that the coercive force of police powers and the criminalization of asylum seeking are NOT fair or just. We see immigration enforcement as an inappropriate use of a state's police powers. We SUPPORT the provisions of SB0478 that would prohibit private contractors from owning, operating or managing detention facilities, or receiving payment related to detaining individuals in a detention facility. We SUPPORT phasing out the current involvement of state and local officials in immigration detention. We SUPPORT the provision that no state or local government agency, nor any sheriff's office may approve a zoning variance or issue a permit for any building to be built or repurposed for use as an immigration detention facility.

We request that the Judicial Proceedings Committee give a favorable report for SB0478 and pass it out of committee for a floor vote. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Liz Enagonio, Advocate

Indivisible Central Maryland

Drawingtogether2020@gmail.com

301-351-6451

Ariel Greenberg_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Escobar, George

Position: FAV

February 7, 2021

Ariel Greenberg
Laurel, MD 20707
amgreenberg@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
**Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not
Detention Act)**

My name is Ariel Greenberg and I have been a Maryland resident for twenty-five years. I have resided in District 21 for the past 5 years. This testimony is in support of SB88/HB304.

As a Jew and as a descendent of Holocaust survivors, I am compelled to speak out against the mistreatment of refugees and immigrants in our communities. The Torah commands us to love and welcome the stranger thirty-six different times; in fact, this act is mentioned more frequently than any other; for example: “You too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19) and “You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt (Exodus 22:20).

I am appalled that the state of Maryland has been cooperating with ICE, and has been housing ICE detainees for profit. Currently, between the three facilities already in existence, our state profits amount to millions of dollars from this collaboration. Maryland has done this willingly, as there is no requirement for our state to cooperate with federal agencies; it is a decision that our state has made in the past, and one that you, our representatives, can reverse.

The detainees held at these centers are often held for minor infractions, such as speeding tickets; sometimes, they are held only for their immigration status, such as an individual who was detained for driving a car that belonged to someone else that officials were seeking out. In the process, they are separated from their families, who then must incur tremendous costs in paying bail or other fees in order to be reunited with their loved ones. The policy of ICE detention is not only cruel, but it does not make economic sense: these are individuals who otherwise would be productively contributing to the local economy, but instead are losing jobs, housing, and more.

It is time for Maryland to take California’s lead and help pave the way for other states looking to enact similar legislation. Waiting for the federal government to reform ICE is a losing proposition, as administrations turn over and federal policy changes. Our state does not have a responsibility to enforce immigration policy, and in fact, we have a moral obligation to do all we can to protect *all* our residents.

I urge you to stand up for the fundamental dignity of our immigrant neighbors. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Ariel M. Greenberg

Deborah Rosenfelt_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Escobar, George

Position: FAV

Deborah Rosenfelt
University Park, MD 20707
dsr@umd.edu

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
**Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not
Detention Act)**

My name is Deborah Rosenfelt and I was born in Baltimore, and have been a resident of University Park in District 22 for 30 years. I am Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland, and I am writing today as a member of Bend the Arc, Prince George's County Moral Minyan, and of Sanctuary DMV. I also am active in YANA (You Are Not Alone), the political action group of Fabangan Cheder Community.

One of the cornerstone principles of the progressive Jewish tradition to which I belong is "Tikkun Olam," a mandate to repair the world. I take that commitment seriously. My father, a doctor, was too old to be drafted during World War II, but he wanted to serve anyway and volunteered. As a captain, he headed a field hospital just behind the front lines, and then after VE Day, was placed in charge of a liberated labor camp. I did not meet him until I was almost three years old, and he was not a well man when he returned, suffering from what we would now call Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Others in my extended family were killed, or became refugees.

Wars cast long shadows, not just on those who fought in them. But I learned to be very proud of my father's bravery and his commitment to fighting against the Nazis for freedom. He would be horrified if he were alive today at the development of quasi-fascist structures like those inhumane detention centers where ICE houses detainees, and which states reap benefits from. ICE's practices punish struggling human beings for seeking personal, economic, and social refuge in this country, subject them to state surveillance and terror, divide their families, and deport them often without benefit of legal help.

I personally know some undocumented individuals, and I know of many others, who are living productive lives, contributing economically and culturally to my community. Some work in our homes, and are seeking paths to citizenship. Many work in the currently-devastated culinary industry in Prince George's County, and have been instrumental in managing and staffing small family-owned restaurants especially along the Kenilworth Avenue Corridor—as I know from working on a food pipeline in the county designed both to support restaurants and secure meals for hungry families. It is absolutely unconscionable to raid, terrorize, detain, and deport people like these. And it hurts not only them, but our larger communities.

This legislation is an important step in protecting and supporting vulnerable people who have much to contribute. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Deborah Rosenfelt

Emily Blank_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Escobar, George

Position: FAV

February 7, 2021

Emily Blank
Mount Rainier, MD 20712

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

My name is Emily Blank and I have been a Maryland resident for most of my life, and for the last 15 years in District 47a. I write as a core leader of the Bend the Arc - Prince George's County Minyan, as a member of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), and as a member of Oseh Shalom Synagogue.

In the words of poet Warsan Shire, “No one leaves home unless/ home is the mouth of a shark... /when home won't let you stay.” I write not only as a Jew who feels called to support immigrants in the name of Jewish teaching, but as a grandchild of immigrants. My grandparents arrived in this country prior to World War II, fortunately, for both them and their descendants. Given the immigration laws during the Shoah, they would not have been allowed to migrate to the West, and it is likely they would have perished. That our “blue” state cooperates with ICE to hold immigrants hostage in three facilities, and that it is looking to potentially open even more detention centers for immigrants, is a travesty.

As a grandchild of immigrants who only through luck and privilege came to be citizens of this country, I fully support others who have not been as fortunate as my family. These individuals should not be ripped away from their families and be held indefinitely in detention, and Maryland should not support ICE and other federal agencies in implementing these cruel policies.

The US holds incarcerates more immigrants than any other country in the world, to the detriment not only of our values, and their families, but to the detriment of our economy as well. Research studies from agencies such as the ACLU and Cato have showed that immigrants positively contribute to the economy, and holding them in detention does not bestow that benefit.

I support the Dignity Not Detention Act, which abolishes all contracts between our state of Maryland and ICE, and prevents the building of new centers in our state to be used for immigrant detention. Please, stand up and support this important legislation. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Emily C. Blank

Farah Khan_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Escobar, George

Position: FAV

SB 478 - SUPPORT
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES - IMMIGRATION DETENTION -
PROHIBITION (DIGNITY NOT DETENTION ACT)

Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

As an immigrant, law student, community organizer, and soon-to-be attorney in the state of Maryland, I am writing today to support SB 478 and urge this committee to report favorably on this legislation.

I moved to the United States with my family as a young child, and have been lucky to have grown up in communities that are committed to fighting for expansive protections for immigrants and vulnerable populations. This is why I am committed to ensuring that Maryland pass SB 478, to continue to move Maryland towards being a state that is truly safe for all. Currently, our community members are facing a crisis in immigration detention throughout the state. Passage of SB 478 has never been more urgent, since the COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the horrific conditions within detention facilities- including physical abuse, medical neglect, and emotional isolation. Individuals in detention are at the mercy of ICE abuse and a raging pandemic that they have no capacity to control. While those detained in immigration facilities- many of which are run by private entities such as Immigration Centers of America (ICA)- have often played no role in causing the spread of COVID-19, they are unjustly expected to bear the brunt of the virus. As of February 6, 2021, over 9,000 individuals detained in ICE custody have tested positive for COVID-19, and at least 9 of these individuals have died.¹ 21 individuals total died in ICE custody in 2020- the highest annual death toll since 2005.² Locally, detention has led to citations from the Inspector General and the Howard, Worcester, and Frederick County detention facilities have all contributed to the spread of COVID-19.³

Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, families and residents have been suffering due to the ongoing pain and trauma of immigration detention. I have spent the past two years working with community organizations and legal nonprofits advocating for and helping to represent individuals who are in immigration detention. On average, around 270 people are in immigration detention at any given time in Maryland.⁴ This number catches only a small snapshot, however. 270 individuals in detention means 270 families separated and forced to

¹ <https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus#detStat>

² <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/30/us/ice-deaths-detention-2020/index.html>

³ <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/reports/2021/ice-needs-address-concerns-about-detainee-care-and-treatment-howard-county-detention-center/oig-21-03-oct20>;

⁴ <https://medium.com/up-up-with-liberation/maryland-detention-centers-101-cd96929ae5c5>

Farah Khan
farahk0207@gmail.com
904-864-6806

navigate the world without a loved one. It means the unquantifiable, long-term trauma of children, which will lead to untold consequences in the future for our communities.

When I speak to family members who have just had a loved one detained, the pain in their voices is palpable. The consequences of detention are vast, and keeping an individual in detention means that they are far less likely to win their immigration case, even when they may very well have a valid legal pathway to stay in the US. Detention often leads to the wrongful and permanent separation of families and the deportation of community members who have a right to be here.

Immigrants in Maryland deserve to feel safe. For too long, ICE detention has terrorized our communities and spread fear and trauma throughout the state. SB 478 will phase out existing local and state contracts fostering immigrant detention, will ban any new local or state contracts with private immigration detention companies, will keep ICE and its contractors out of Maryland, and will make sure that nobody can profit off of the separation of families and the pain of incarceration. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on SB 478.

Sincerely,
Farah Khan

Gavin Kohn_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Escobar, George

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB478(HB16) - Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

To: Senator Will Smith, Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Gavin Kohn, (gavin.kohn@gmail.com)

Date: February 2, 2021

My name is Gavin Kohn, and I live in Howard County, Maryland. I am testifying in support of the Dignity Not Detention SB478, and I urge you to vote 'Yes' on this legislation as it stands.

Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) has a long history of exploiting, harming, and violating immigrants in this country. Recently, ICE was very credibly accused of conducting forced hysterectomies on women in their detention centers, as well as having terrible medical conditions, especially during a pandemic. (1)

This type of treatment is present at ICE detention centers in Maryland as well, with the Jessup Detention center (Howard County) being cited by the DHS as having unacceptable conditions for detainees. The treatment found by DHS included **excessive strip searching, not providing adequate food**, and much more. (2)

Because of these reasons, we need to end all associations with ICE. When detention centers close, ICE is forced to release inmates. This will release people who have no reason to be detained; since everyone ICE holds is held for a civil violation and is not serving time for a crime. These people do not need to be held in detention, and Maryland should cancel existing ICE IGSA contracts and prevent new contracts from being signed.

Please support HB0016, the Dignity Not Detention Act, and vote against any exemptions that allow existing detention centers to remain in operation.

Gavin Kohn, Columbia, MD 21045

Citations

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-54160638>
2. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/ice-violations-found-at-howard-county-detention-center-department-of-homeland-security-report-says/ar-BB1aM2Hz>

Helena Benes-Kaiser_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Escobar, George

Position: FAV

February 7, 2021

Helen Beneš Kaiser
Hyattsville, MD 20782
helena.benes@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
**Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not
Detention Act)**

My name is Helen Beneš Kaiser and I have resided in Maryland District 22 for the past two and a half years. I am writing you as a core leader of the Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Prince George's County Minyan, and as a member of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) and of Maryland Against ICE Detention (MDAID) as well as an ally of CASA. I strongly urge this committee to report favorably on SB 478, the Dignity Not Detention Act.

I write not only as a Jew who feels called by the Torah – which commands us to love and welcome the stranger (the refugee and immigrant) as our neighbor – but as a child of political refugee from formerly communist Czechoslovakia and as the daughter-in-law of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. My father, who had fled Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia in 1938, later sought asylum in the United States in 1948 after the Communist government took over in his country and became a naturalized citizen after the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

My parents-in-law fled Nazi Germany in 1938, sought asylum in the U.S. and became highly productive citizens of this country. Indeed, my husband's grandfather, who did not receive a visa in time to escape Nazi Germany, died in the Theresienstadt concentration camp. I grew up being grateful for the asylum granted my father and my parents-in-law and as an adult have been committed to assuring that refugees and other immigrants fleeing persecution would find a safe haven in our country and especially in the state in which I live.

I have been horrified to learn that our progressive state cooperates with ICE to detain immigrants in three facilities and that even more immigrant detention centers may be opened in Maryland. ICE tactics mirror those from totalitarian regimes that my parents-in-law escaped from, and I find it abhorrent that these strategies – such as separation of families and holding children hostage – are still relied upon today in the United States. Maryland has no mandated role to play in federal immigration detention and it is time for our state to step up and lead on the issue, and end all contracts with ICE.

I believe that nobody in our country, a country that welcomed my father and parents-in-law and provided them liberty from persecution, should live in the fear that drove my family to immigrate here. You have the power to end this persecution here in our state, and as your constituent, I urge you to do so. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Sincerely,

Helen Beneš Kaiser

Ioana Stoica_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Escobar, George

Position: FAV

February 7, 2021

Ioana Stoica
Laurel, MD 20707
ioana.stoica@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

My name is Ioana Stoica and I have been a Maryland resident for most of the time since immigrating to the United States at the age of 11. I have resided in District 21 for the past 5 years. I am writing as a core leader of the Bend the Arc - Prince George's County Minyan, as a member of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), Oseh Shalom Synagogue, and as an ally of CASA. This testimony is in support of SB478.

The Torah repeatedly commands us to love and welcome refugees as our neighbors. Leviticus 19:34 states: "The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Here in the United States, the vast majority of us were once strangers to this land. The Jewish tradition teaches that it is our responsibility to welcome these strangers; as Jews, we understand this plight as we have been persecuted for our religious beliefs and have had to flee to save our lives throughout our history.

I write not only as a Jew who feels called to support immigrants in our midst by my faith, but as a child of a political defector from formerly communist Romania, who was able to immigrate to this country after my father was granted political asylum. When I first learned that our progressive state cooperates with ICE to hold immigrants hostage in three facilities, and that it is looking to potentially open even more detention centers for immigrants, I was horrified. So many of ICE's policies and techniques are terrifyingly reminiscent of the kind of surveillance and state-sponsored control that my family is too familiar with, and it's unconscionable that the United States, a country that bills itself as a beacon of the free world, engages in these types of tactics.

As an immigrant and as the child of immigrants who only through luck and privilege came to be citizens of this country, I fully support others who have not been as fortunate as my family, in seeking to engage productively with American society, and in living free from the fear of being terrorized by the state and from the fear of being ripped away from their families and being held indefinitely in detention. For this reason, I support the Dignity Not Detention Act, which abolishes all contracts between our state of Maryland and ICE, and prevents the building of new centers in our state to be used for immigrant detention.

Nobody in this country, a country that prides itself as standing as a beacon of liberty, should live in fear that they will be caged, jailed, separated from their families, or deported, simply for working hard and making a future for their children. Please, stand up and support this important legislation. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Ioana Stoica

Loretta Vitale Saks_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Escobar, George

Position: FAV

February 7, 2021

Loretta Vitale Saks
University Park, MD 20782
LVitaleSaks@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
**Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not
Detention Act)**

My name is Loretta Vitale Saks and I have been a Maryland resident since 1974. I have resided in District 22 for all that time. I am writing as a core leader of the Bend the Arc - Prince George's County Minyan, and as an ally of CASA. This testimony is in support of SB478.

The Torah repeatedly commands us to love and welcome refugees as our neighbors. For example, Exodus 22:20 states: "You shall not wrong nor oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Here in the United States, the vast majority of us were once strangers to this land. The Jewish tradition teaches that it is our responsibility to welcome these strangers and as Jews, we understand this plight deeply from our own history.

I write not only as a Jew who feels called to support immigrants in our midst by my faith, but as a child of Italian-Jews who fled to the United States to escape the Holocaust. I am sickened to know that our progressive state cooperates with ICE to hold immigrants hostage in three facilities, and that it is looking to potentially open even more detention centers for immigrants.

As the child of immigrants who always felt so fortunate to have survived the Holocaust and to have become American citizens, I fully support others who have not been as fortunate as my family. This country has room for all who are fleeing violence and terror in their home countries. They should be able to emigrate here without new fear of being terrorized by our country, of being ripped away from their families and of being held indefinitely in detention. For this reason, I support the Dignity Not Detention Act, which abolishes all contracts between our state of Maryland and ICE, and prevents the building of new centers in our state to be used for immigrant detention.

Please, stand up and support this important legislation to protect immigrants who are only doing all they can to secure a better life for themselves, their children, and their families and put an end to Maryland's cooperation with ICE. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Loretta Vitale Saks

Louise Weissman_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Escobar, George

Position: FAV

February 9, 2021

Louise Weissman
Greenbelt, MD 20770
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

My name is Louise Weissman, I live in Greenbelt in District 22. Prior to retiring, I worked for United We Dream, the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the country. Now I am a member of Bend the Arc - Prince George's County Minyan, a member of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), and I am an ally of CASA de Maryland. I am writing to you about a very urgent matter; one that is not new, but exacerbated over these past four years. My testimony is in support of SB478 - the Dignity Not Detention Act.

The Torah commands us to love and welcome refugees. Leviticus 19:34 states: "The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." The vast majority of citizens in the United States have been immigrants from other countries, and many faced oppression in their homelands, something we deeply identify with as Jews.

I also write as the daughter and granddaughter of immigrants who settled in Boston shortly before and after WWI. They had faith that the United States of America would be welcoming even as they faced discrimination and hate in the form of antisemitism in their new homeland. Still, they were able to nurture their children and did well.

Currently in Maryland, there are three counties (Frederick, Howard, and Worcester counties) with contracts to detain immigrants for ICE, and ICE is now working to build a private detention center in the state. The Dignity not Detention ACT will prohibit local jurisdictions from entering into or renewing contracts with ICE to detain immigrants and require transparency in permitting and zoning for privately built and operated ICE facilities.

I fully support those immigrants who seek to establish their new home through citizenship as my family did. Many, particularly those living below our Southern Border, want to be free from the fear of being terrorized in their original countries. For this reason, I support the Dignity Not Detention Act, which will abolish all contracts between the state of Maryland and ICE, and prevent the building of new immigrant detention centers.

The United States has always stood as a beacon of hope for those who made passage to come to this country. The Statue of Liberty stands in Upper New York Bay, a universal symbol of freedom, hope, and liberty with the following invitation: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore." It is time for the US government to give immigrants a pathway to citizenship as well as to welcome who come next to our shores. It is my hope that Maryland will stand up in leadership and support this important bill. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Louise Weissman

Marsha Salzberg_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Escobar, George

Position: FAV

February 7, 2021

Marsha Salzberg
Bowie, Maryland
Marshasalzberg@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
**Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not
Detention Act)**

My name is Marsha Salzberg and I am a resident of Prince George's County. I am writing as a member of Bend the Arc-Prince George's County Minyan. This testimony is in support of SB478.

The Torah teaches us to love immigrants who may at first seem as “strangers” amongst us. This is such an important issue that it is mentioned thirty-six times. As only a couple of examples, Deuteronomy 24:17 says: “you shall not subvert the rights of the stranger or the fatherless,” while Leviticus 24:22 states: “You shall have one standard for stranger and citizen alike.” For me as a Jew, the issue of immigration is one touching deeply on my faith, but also on my experience and my family’s history.

I write this as a Jew who feels called to support the immigrants in our midst, as my family once was, and as most of our families in this country today once were. Policies that ICE engages in are eerily similar to those that oppressive regimes have engaged in in the past: stalking individuals at work and at schools or even at places of worship, separating families, caging children, even, as was recently revealed, performing hysterectomies on unsuspecting women. It is unconscionable that Maryland is complicit in these actions by taking money from ICE.

Our progressive state of Maryland should not be involved in cooperating with such an agency, and in enriching our coffers by helping ICE detain our residents. We should follow the lead of states such as California, that have passed bills limiting immigrant detention in their states. Seeing as states are absolutely not required by any provision in the Constitution to assist the federal government in implementing immigration laws, Maryland should especially divest from these efforts and be a model for other states that may follow suit.

I am writing to ask you to please support this important legislation. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Marsha Salzberg

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention Esposito 2.8.21.pdf

Uploaded by: Esposito, Lindsay

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 45. I'm proud to have been a resident of Baltimore City since 2008 and a homeowner and voter in the Greenmount West neighborhood for the last 8 years. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Esposito
434 E. Oliver
Baltimore, MD 21202
Showing Up for Racial Justice

2021 NASW SB 478 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Faulkner, Rachael

Position: FAV



February 10, 2021

Testimony in Support of SB478 - Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

To: Senator Will Smith, Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

NASW-MD urges you to support SB478, Dignity Not Detention Act, which bans any new contracts or renewals of existing contracts with detention facilities operated wholly (or in part) by private corporations; ensures that the public is adequately informed in any plans for a new private detention facility to take place; requires local entities that already have an existing immigration detention agreement (Intergovernmental Service Agreement (IGSA) to terminate the contract by June 2021. Last session the bill was introduced as SB850/HB677.

NASW is the largest national organization of social workers representing over 120,000 social workers and over 16,000 of those are licensed here in the state of Maryland. The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. Our nation's undocumented immigrant population is an oppressed and marginalized population that needs relief from the structural problems in our immigration system.

We must start by ending our most egregious acts of systemic violence; the taking away of people's right to be free. Our nation's excessive use of detention is detrimental to immigrants, their families, and our society as a whole. It contributes to a society where we are more likely to "lock them up" than "lift them up." It creates a terrorizing environment for immigrants and undermines our fundamental job as a community to care for one another. Maryland does not need to be complicit with these practices and should not allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to have detention centers here.

We suggest that instead of detaining immigrants and costing taxpayers millions of dollars, we should provide support and case management to immigrants. Some of the alternatives to detention include regulated and mandated check-ins with law enforcement, communication with authorities by telephone, linking families to community-based psychosocial services, or electronic monitoring of some individuals. Studies show that asylum seekers are very compliant in appearing for their immigration court hearings and that these services can be provided at a fraction of the cost of detention. Alternatives to detention cost only around \$5 or \$6 per person versus the \$118 or more it costs to detain someone every day. More importantly, alternative programs do not result in detaining very small children, taking children away from their parents, or implementing policies that violate basic American values.

The State of Maryland should lead the way in standing up to tyranny, violence, racism, and bigotry that is imbedded in our immigration detention system. Social workers will support you every step of the way. Please pass SB 478 with no amendments.

Sincerely,

Daphne McClellan, Ph.D., MSW
Executive Director, NASW-MD

5750 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Baltimore, MD 21228
(410) 788-1066 · FAX (410) 747-0635 · nasw.md@verizon.net · www.nasw-md.org

Testimony SUPPORTING SB0478.pdf

Uploaded by: Feldenzer, Emile

Position: FAV

February 8, 2021

Dear members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Emile Feldenzer and I am a resident of District 43 in Baltimore City. I am writing to urge you to SUPPORT SB0478, *Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)*.

Private detention facilities run by ICE have always endangered the lives of undocumented immigrants with rampant abuse and neglect, but the COVID-19 pandemic has made them even more deadly. Overcrowding and a lack of proper treatment for the sick have caused ICE detainees to contract COVID-19 at 13 times the rate of the general public. This creates all the more opportunity for the pandemic to spread in communities surrounding the detention centers, which are often located in rural areas with less hospital capacity. But more to the point, seeking asylum in the state of Maryland should not be a death sentence.

It is just not sensible or humane to financially incentivize ICE raids and profiling of immigrant communities, especially in this moment where community and individual health are so closely intertwined. Prison walls and borders cannot contain or keep out what threatens us. Immigrants are essential workers and beloved community members, and none of us can truly live with dignity when our local governments are profiting from their suffering.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sincerely,

--Emile Feldenzer

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.pdf

Uploaded by: Fertig, Benjamin

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District **11**. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Fertig

2722 Quarry Heights Way, Baltimore, MD 21209

Showing Up for Racial Justice

SDMV - Support SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Galloway, Nicholas

Position: FAV



Nicholas Galloway - Liaison
Sanctuary DMV
ngallowa@umd.edu
240-988-0027

**SB 478 - SUPPORT
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES - IMMIGRATION DETENTION -
PROHIBITION (DIGNITY NOT DETENTION ACT)**

Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of organizers and supporters of Sanctuary DMV, we support SB 478 and urge this committee to report favorably on this legislation. Sanctuary DMV is an all-volunteer group that stands in solidarity with immigrant and marginalized communities based in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Our mission is to support communities that are directly impacted by anti-immigrant policies and sentiments.

The passage and implementation of SB 478 is conducive to our goal of supporting directly impacted communities in the State of Maryland. Right now, our neighbors are suffering and dying in immigration detention across the state. Individuals in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are routinely met with medical neglect, isolation, and abuse at the hands of detention officials. Passing this bill is particularly urgent in the time of COVID; as of January 21, 2021, almost 9,000 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in ICE custody, among an average daily population of around 14,195. The abhorrent conditions in immigration detention directly facilitate the spread of infectious diseases, which is why COVID is out of control in ICE facilities.

On behalf of ICE, many of these facilities are run by private entities such as Immigration Centers of America (ICA), which has pinpointed Maryland as a site for detention expansion. ICA's facilities have been cited for serving worm-infested food, withholding medical treatment, denying access to legal representation, and throwing people into solitary without cause. ICA-Farmville in Virginia was also the site of the nation's largest COVID-19 outbreak in detention, leading to the death of James Hill. This is not to say that publicly-run detention is better, in fact, Howard, Worcester, and Frederick County Detention centers have all been cited for violations by the Inspector General's office, and have also failed to control the spread of COVID-19. Sanctuary DMV has supported detainees and their families, and as such we can attest that immigrant detention - both private and public - is an incredible detriment to our immigrant neighbors in Maryland and across the country.

SB 478's provisions to 1) phase out existing local/state contracts fostering immigrant detention, and 2) banning any new local/state contracts with private immigration detention companies, will keep ICE and its contractors out of Maryland, protect our immigrant communities, and make sure that no town, county, or corporation is profiting from family separation or incarceration. SB 478 will drastically reduce the harm that ICE is able to inflict upon our immigrant neighbors, and will be a boon to the welfare of the State of Maryland as a result. We urge a favorable report on SB 478.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Galloway,
Organizer
Sanctuary DMV

SB 0478 Written Statement of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Ghebrehiwet, Rediet

Position: FAV

Dear Maryland legislators,

My name is Rediet Ghebrehiwet and I am a senior at Richard Montgomery High School. It has recently come to my attention that you will be presented with a bill concerning immigration detention this legislative session. The purpose of this letter is to urge you and your fellow legislators to support Senate Bill 0478/ House Bill 0016 which will prohibit Maryland local governments from going under contract with private businesses, require public notification of permit awarding for detention centers, and other very necessary immigration law statues. These centers contribute to the separation of families, the imprisonment of hundreds, and the overall heartache of countless people. Individuals who have committed no crime or very minor offenses are treated worse than criminals in maximum security prisons solely for seeking a better reality for themselves and their families, and it is not justifiable or acceptable by any means. Again, I urge you to vote in favor of SB 0478/ HB 0016, The Dignity Not Detention Act. This is not a matter of politics or economics, it is a matter of humanity. Please do not be on the wrong side of history.

Thankful for all you do!

Rediet Ghebrehiwet

SB0478 testimony Dignity not detention LG.pdf

Uploaded by: Girdner, Linnie

Position: FAV

Dear Senators Smith, Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am a resident of District 21 and have lived in Maryland for most of my 70 years. I am a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis and Anne Arundel County and a Christian who believes in creating the Beloved Community, welcoming the immigrant, and loving the stranger.

I am testifying in support of SB0478, which does three important things:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Requires local governments to terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

Detaining underdocumented immigrants separates families and often contributes to their impoverishment. Who receives the economic gains? Howard, Frederick and Worcester counties rent their detention space to ICE. They profit by housing fathers and mothers who have not committed crimes, but simply do not have all their immigrant paperwork. That is a civil not a criminal issue. When there is a true alleged criminal violation, then yes, arrest and often detention are appropriate.

Who else profits? Private for-profit prisons. They are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, most of whom have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

ICE and private for-profit prisons have a long documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. Nationwide we know that Covid-19 rates are four times as high in correctional facilities and the death toll is twice as high as the general population. Human beings who are not being charged with criminal violations should not be put at such risk by being detained.

Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents nor should we be treating people in this way. I supported getting rid of the 287g program and IGSA that previously existed in Anne Arundel County and hope that the Maryland General Assembly can stop these programs across the state.

Shall we put the dream of the Beloved Community above profit or shall we continue to allow state and local law enforcement to help ICE by detaining “the least of these” and destroying families? That choice is up to you. I am encouraging you to vote in support of bill SB0478.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda K. Girdner
941 Fall Ridge Way
Gambrills, MD 21054

SB 478 - Dignity Not Detention Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Gorny, Daniel

Position: FAV

Daniel Gorny

Parkville, MD

District 8

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 0478, Dignity Not Detention Act

February 10, 2021

TO: Chair Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Daniel Gorny

My name is Daniel Gorny. I live in Parkville in District 8, and am a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice. This testimony is in support of Senate Bill 0478. This bill represents far more than support for Maryland's immigrant communities; it represents the state's commitment to respecting basic human dignity and worth. The state cannot allow either private or public organizations to profit from people's lives, or permit private entities to exercise coercive force against members of the public.

The use of privately owned detention centers and paid detention contracts described in the Dignity Not Detention Act commoditizes human life and encourages confinement of individuals and dissolution of families in the name of profit. I have spent most of my career working in private industry at for-profit companies and have seen first hand how quickly working conditions are eroded in order to protect a corporate balance sheet. This race to the bottom in terms of respect is accelerated when a person's only contribution to the bottom line is through being detained. Furthermore, granting coercive powers over individuals to private organizations, which are subject to less oversight and less accountability than public institutions, puts those held in these facilities at greater risk of unwarranted harm.

Immigration detention facilities are used to house individuals awaiting immigrations hearings. These are people who have been accused, not convicted, of committing civil, not criminal, violations. No other civil matter carries a sentence of imprisonment, and yet we are permitting Marylanders to be held hazardous conditions, away from their families, and at the mercy of a system that has come to demonize those who look or speak differently, simply because they have been accused of committing a civil violation.

I have heard from a man who was detained because he was a passenger in a broken-down vehicle that a police officer stopped to assist. I have heard from a man who was detained because he borrowed a vehicle from another man who was suspected of being undocumented. I have heard from a man who was deported without ever speaking to a lawyer or saying goodbye to his wife and children. These actions do not protect society, they traumatize and disrespect human beings.

Private detention facilities and paid detention contracts incentivize the confinement of people like livestock, and their use is unconscionable. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report for Senate Bill 0478.

Thank you,

Daniel Gorny

Basic human dignity

Do not commoditize human life

Do not permit private exercise of coercive force

Prison conditions pending trial for civil actions

Being passengers in broken downs, borrowing car from wanted person

Profit margins drive race to bottom on conditions

Good/bad immigrant story causes problems

Does not violate federal law or primacy (US v California)

FAV_SB478_Jeffrey_Harrison.pdf

Uploaded by: Harrison, Jeffrey

Position: FAV

Jeffrey A. Harrison

February 8, 2021

Bill Title: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

Bill Number: **SB 478**

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Position: **Favorable / Support**

Contact: Senator Smith

Dear Committee Chair Smith, Committee Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 478. Enforcement of federal immigration laws is the responsibility of the federal government. Our state and local governments in Maryland need to focus on state and local law enforcement and the delivery of governmental services to Maryland residents. Marylanders demand that our state and local governments get out of the federal-immigration-law-enforcement business !

The use of incarceration in Maryland needs to be minimized. Incarceration as practiced in our country is inherently brutal and dehumanizing. Every person in the United States has constitutional rights. People who are alleged to have violated federal immigration laws should not be incarcerated in any facility in Maryland but instead need to be represented by an attorney and need to live in the community or with sponsors.

Making a profit from incarceration facilities needs to be banned in Maryland. For-profit incarceration incentivizes more incarceration.

Immigration detention facilities are inhumane. More than 50 people have died in ICE and CBP facilities in the past four years. In those facilities, thousands of incarcerated people have been infected with Covid-19 because of overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and inadequate medical care. ICE, CBP, and their contractors have subjected incarcerated people to atrocities such as sexual assaults and forced hysterectomies.

For-profit prison companies operate with little oversight and little accountability. One atrocious example in our region is Immigration Centers of America (ICA), which operates the ICE prison in Farmville, Virginia. As reported in 2020, nearly 90% of the incarcerated people at ICA Farmville, 259 of 298 people, tested positive for Covid-19. At least one ICA-Farmville-incarcerated person died in 2020. See References 1 and 2. ICA would like to build at least one more ICE prison in our region. Maryland must not support that !

For those reasons, I urge you to support SB 478.

Please send a Favorable report from the committee. Thank you.

Jeffrey A. Harrison

(a member of Greenbelt People Power)

6835 Damsel Ct, Greenbelt MD 20770 (District 22), Jeff6836@gmail.com

Reference 1: <https://prospect.org/justice/farmville-ice-facility-almost-every-detainee-has-coronavirus/>

Reference 2: <https://www.wric.com/news/virginia-news/farmville-ice-detention-center-needs-to-give-detainees-more-space-to-reduce-covid-19-risk-cdc-report-says/>

SB478 Written Testimony A Juberg.pdf

Uploaded by: Juberg, Arielle

Position: FAV

Arielle Juberg
Baltimore, Maryland
District 8

Testimony in Support of Bill SB478, Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

To: Chair Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Arielle Juberg

My name is Arielle Juberg. I am a resident of Baltimore County in District 8. I belong to Showing Up for Racial Justice in Baltimore and Casa de Maryland's Ally Network. I am testifying in support of SB478, Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act).

I ask that you follow your conscious to stop new private immigration detention centers in Maryland and end Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSA) between ICE and local jurisdictions. My request rests on two often-competing principles: profit and basic human rights.

Profit is the elephant in the room for this bill. The private companies that build immigrant detention centers are profit-driven. They are motivated to make a profit for the company and, if applicable, shareholders. These companies have an ingrained interest in detaining more men and women to maximize profits. Unlike other companies, they aren't focused on providing a product, improving our communities, or making society more efficient. The other aspect of profit is the funds received by jurisdictions participating in IGSA's. While it is true that these jurisdictions receive hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars through IGSA's, these are actually a small percentage of total revenue for each county.

The presence of new private immigration detention centers in Maryland would dishonor our state. Time and time again, these centers have disregarded people's basic human rights. This has been clearly shown during the COVID-19 pandemic. ICE-Farmville, a private detention center in Farmville, Virginia, has had one of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks in the country, with reports saying that approximately 90 percent of the detained people have tested positive.¹ This outbreak is not a fluke or a series of bad luck – it is a direct outcome of the decisions made by Farmville's management. Detained individuals cannot socially distance, and sick detainees have been denied medical care. At least one detained man in Farmville is reported to have died of COVID-19.¹

The current immigration detention situation in Maryland reminds me of another time in our history. Before the Civil War, free African Americans and enslaved persons who had escaped were often captured in Maryland and sold south. This practice made several Marylanders very wealthy. One hundred and fifty years later, I hope we've moved beyond imprisoning human beings for profit in this state. I respectfully urge a favorable report for SB478.

¹ Gathright, Jenny. "Inspection Finds 'Systematic' Failings In Farmville Immigrant Detention Center Response To COVID-19 Outbreak" WAMU 88.5. <https://wamu.org/story/20/09/10/inspection-finds-systematic-failings-in-farmville-immigrant-detention-center-response-to-covid-19-outbreak/>

2021-02-10 SB 478 (Support).pdf

Uploaded by: Jung, Roy

Position: FAV

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General



ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410-576-6584

February 10, 2021

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB 478 Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not
Detention Act) (**SUPPORT IN CONCEPT**)

The Office of the Attorney General supports the goal of SB 478, to ensure that the State and local jurisdictions are not facilitating immigration detention by private entities. As expressed in the findings of the General Assembly that undergird the bill's prohibitions, these responsibilities should rest with the federal government. Civil detention of immigrants experiencing the challenges and vulnerabilities associated with leaving their countries, homes, and families, often fleeing persecution, is an inherently governmental function, imbued with the exercise of coercive police powers, that should not be delegated.

In sum, the Office of the Attorney General supports the principle that civil immigration enforcement should be the province of the federal government and should not be delegated to private entities.

cc: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

HB 0016_SB0478-2.pdf

Uploaded by: Kahsay, Emnet

Position: FAV

Honorable Delegates and Senators of the Maryland General Assembly,

My name is Emnet Kahsay and I am a freshman at Stanford University. I am an *employed* constituent of Maryland's 18th district (so I pay taxes!). I am writing to you today to express my outrage at the continued ICE detention in Maryland. Private companies have no place in the immigration system, and are robbing faultless individuals of their freedom for profit. Families continue to be separated for indefinite periods of time and Maryland cannot be complicit in the misery of hundreds. The Dignity Not Detention Act would ensure local governments cannot go into communication with private entities, prohibit governments from awarding permits for centers without notifying the public, and dissolve existing government-private detention centers by the end of 2022. Our federal government is working to dismantle private prisons and Maryland should follow suit. That is why I'm asking you to support SB 0478/ HB 0016 this session. We are counting on you.

Emnet Kahsay

Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Kahsay, Lewhat

Position: FAV

Hello honorable delegates and senators of the Maryland General Assembly! My name is Lewhat Kahsay and I am a freshman from Richard Montgomery High School. I am apart of district 18, and as one of your constituents, I believe my opinion should be considered when making decisions regarding the future of Maryland. I am writing to you today to express my outrage at the continued ICE detention in Maryland. Private companies have no place in the immigration system, and are robbing faultless individuals of their freedom for profit. Families continue to be separated for indefinite periods of time and Maryland cannot be complicit in the misery of hundreds. The Dignity Not Detention Act would ensure local governments cannot go into communication with private entities, prohibit governments from awarding permits for centers without notifying the public, and dissolve existing government-private detention centers by the end of 2022. That is why I'm asking you to support SB 0478/ HB 0016 this session. We are counting on you.

Testimony in support of SB0478 - CAN.pdf

Uploaded by: Kickenson, Jerry

Position: FAV



faith. love. liberation.
fe. amor. Liberación.

Testimony in support of SB0478/HB0016

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

To: To: Hon. William Smith, Chair, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Jerry Kickenson and Martha Wells, Congregation Action Network

Date: February 10, 2021

We are writing in **support of House Bill 0016/Senate Bill 0478**, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act), on behalf of the Congregation Action Network. The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With over 75 congregations and a thousand members throughout the capital area, including over 25 congregations with thousands of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

As people of faith committed to ending the detention and deportation of immigrants, we adhere to the sacred texts of most major faiths that call for welcoming the stranger and treating each other with love, dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be united and free - never incarcerated.

SB0478/HB0016 would end state and local agency involvement in the cruel, immoral and counterproductive incarceration of immigrants and require transparency in any zoning or permitting decisions taken by local jurisdictions that enable private facilities that intend to incarcerate immigrants within Maryland.

We strongly urge you to reach a favorable report for SB0478/HB0016. It is the moral and right thing to do.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry Kickenson

Cluster Leader, Congregation Action Network (Montgomery County)

Martha Wells

Cluster Leader, Congregation Action Network (Prince Georges County)

AFSCME-FAV-SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Kilpatrick, Lance

Position: FAV



190 West Ostend St., #201
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410.547.1515
Fax: 410.837.5436

Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
SB 478 – Correctional Services - Immigration Detention – Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)
Judicial Proceedings
February 10, 2020
Support

AFSCME Council 3 strongly supports SB 478. This legislation would end the ability of state and local governments to engage with private contractors to establish detention facilities. It would also call for any existing local contracts with private detention companies to be terminated by June 2020. Finally, it would ensure that the public is adequately informed if any plans should surface for the construction or establishment of a new detention facility.

AFSCME Council 3 represents correctional officers in our state's prisons. Admittedly we regularly butt heads with management over staffing, wages and working conditions. All too often the issues we discuss with management have direct, negative impacts and consequences on the safety of staff and inmates if they go unresolved. Lack of appropriate levels of staffing harm the ability to implement and maintain ongoing education and rehabilitation programs.

HOWEVER, we can and do engage with management, raise these issues and alert the public by blowing the whistle on poor conditions when they exist. For privatized prisons and for-profit detention facilities, there are no whistleblowers, no public servants that look to serve their community with dignity and respect for the lives of others. The bottom line is the last line on the profit ledger: is it big enough? If not, what more can be cut back and squeezed out of employees and programs to enhance that profit?

For-profit imprisonment and detention are among the most immoral institutions imaginable – there is no goal of adjudication, or rehabilitation and societal reincorporation. It's all about the money. AFSCME Council 3 asks for a moral, favorable report of this legislation.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
800.492.1996

Find us: afscmemd.org
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MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0478.pdf

Uploaded by: Kraska, MJ

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 10, 2021

SB 478

Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch) dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 478 prohibits state and local governments from entering into agreements facilitating immigration-related detention in private facilities, including the housing of those being held for deportation proceedings or removal. It also requires that existing contracts be terminated by October 1, 2022.

The Catholic Church has historically held a strong interest in immigration and how public policy affects immigrants seeking a new life in the United States, stemming from the inherent dignity and value that each person holds, regardless of societal labels such as citizenship status, ethnicity, or financial ability. In this vein, the Conference strongly supports legislation that protects immigrants and their families, especially when they are faced with the prospect of their families being broken apart. The Church recognizes that a strong and thriving family unit is the basis of a fulfilling life.

In the absence of federal immigration policy reform, the state must act to not only differentiate the roles of federal civil immigration officials and local law enforcement and corrections officers, but also to protect its most vulnerable persons and families from unjust and inhumane detention practices. Senate Bill 478 is a crucial first step for Maryland to take a strong stance in favor of the basic human rights and decency of each individual in the state.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 478.

MCR resolution in favor of SB 0478_HB 0016.pdf

Uploaded by: Leibowitz, Abigail

Position: FAV

Resolution to support Maryland SB0478/HB0016: Dignity Not Detention Act

Sponsors: Abby Leibowitz and Elon Atlaw

WHEREAS MCR-SGA has dedicated itself to preserving the diversity of the community and welcoming all students regardless of immigration status.

WHEREAS housing immigrants in private facilities leads to evasion of responsibility and accountability, and is what allowed for the hysterectomy crisis at Irwin County Detention Center¹.

WHEREAS over 70% of detained immigrants are held in private- run immigration prisons.²

WHEREAS private prison companies receive over \$2 billion a year to jail families seeking asylum³.

WHEREAS profiting off of incarcerating families is dehumanizing and unjust.

WHEREAS ICE contracts with private prison companies include fixed prices, meaning private prison companies are paid whether or not detention space is used, creating an incentive for these companies to encourage surplus detention.⁴

WHEREAS private prison companies such as GEO Group and CoreCivic have made contributions to PACs lobbying for harsh asylum practices.⁵

WHEREAS establishing more detention centers will create incentive to arrest undocumented community members for minor violations and significantly harm families in the DMV area.

¹ Schacher, Yael. "Inform. Reform. An Immigration Teach-In." *F.A.I.R.*, 11 November, 2020, Lecture.

² Freedom for Immigrants. "Detention Statistics." *freedomforimmigrants.org*, Freedom for Immigrants, <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/detention-statistics>.

³ Sozan, Michael. "Solutions to Fight Private Prisons' Power Over Immigration Detention." *Center for American Progress*, Center for American Progress, 16 July 2018, www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/16/453309/solutions-fight-private-prisons-power-immigration-detention/.

⁴ Chico Harlan, "Inside the administration's \$1 billion deal to detain Central American asylum seekers," *The Washington Post*, August 14, 2016, available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/inside-the-administrations-1-billion-deal-to-detain-central-american-asylum-seekers/2016/08/14/e47f1960-5819-11e6-9aee-8075993d73a2_story.html?utm_term=.f6eda22b45e3. ↵)

⁵ "Agency Profile: Department of Homeland Security." *OpenSecrets.Org*, 2019, <https://www.opensecrets.org/federal-lobbying/agencies/summary?cycle=2019&id=201>.

WHEREAS private detention centers resemble jail-like conditions with restricted visits and phone calls, uniforms and stripping of personal belongings despite the fact that immigration is civil in nature, not criminal. ⁶

WHEREAS Freedom for Immigrants, a nonprofit dedicated to abolishing immigration detention and immigration reform has endorsed the bill. ⁷

WHEREAS F.A.I.R, a student-led countywide advocacy group has expressed support of the Dignity Not Detention Act and has written a letter signed by students who sign out letters.

WHEREAS SB 0478/HB 0016 will prevent local and state governments in Maryland from going into any new contracts with private jails for immigration detention, prevent existing ones from expanding, and ensure no city or town profits off of incarcerating immigrants.

Be It Hereby Resolved that the Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association (MCR-SGA), an organization representing all Montgomery County students, is fully in support of SB0478/HB0016.

⁶ Hustings, Erin. "FAIR Volunteer Training." *DC Detention Visitation Network*, 7 January, 2021, Lecture.

⁷ Entralgo, Rebekah. "Freedom for Immigrants Submits Letter of Support for MD 'Dignity Not Detention' Act." *Freedom for Immigrants*, Freedom for Immigrants, 21 Feb. 2020, www.freedomforimmigrants.org/policy-updates/2020/2/21/freedom-for-immigrants-submits-letter-of-support-for-md-dignity-not-detention-act.

SB478 - FAV -Carol Stern.pdf

Uploaded by: Lloyd, Rianna

Position: FAV

February 10, 2021

Carol Stern
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Carol Stern

My name is Carol Stern from Chevy Chase in District 16. I am providing this testimony in support of SB478/HB16, Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act). Thank you for recognizing the urgent call of thousands of Marylanders, who have raised our voices in the streets of Howard County asking for change to happen during this legislative session.

Jewish tradition teaches me that “when strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The sojourners who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

The fact that the State of Maryland allows Frederick, Howard and Worcester counties to participate in a system that is killing people and tearing families apart is unconscionable. Maryland must not allow these counties to maintain contracts to detain immigrants for ICE, and to actively build private detention centers there without transparency and resident engagement.

SB478/HB16 prohibits local jurisdictions from entering into or renewing contracts with ICE to detain immigrants and is a step toward that more perfect world we must create together. **I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478/HB16.**

SB478 - FAV- Jerry Kickenson.pdf

Uploaded by: Lloyd, Rianna

Position: FAV

February 10, 2021

Jerry Kickenson
Silver Spring, MD 20902

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Jerry Kickenson

My name is Jerry Kickenson. I am a resident of Silver Spring, District 18. I am writing in support of SB478/HB16, the Dignity Not Detention Act.

Jewish sacred text and tradition teach us to welcome the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Leviticus 19:34 explicitly instructs us to treat the immigrants in our land the same as native citizens. Native citizens are not incarcerated and separated from their families for civil offenses. My Jewish tradition is also rooted in liberation. I believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be united and free - never incarcerated.

SB478 would end state and local agency involvement in the cruel, immoral and counterproductive incarceration of immigrants and require transparency in any zoning or permitting decisions taken by local jurisdictions that enable private facilities that intend to incarcerate immigrants within Maryland.

I strongly urge you to reach a favorable report for SB478/HB16. It is the moral and right thing to do.

SB478 - FAV -Zackary Berger.pdf

Uploaded by: Lloyd, Rianna

Position: FAV

February 10, 2021

Zackary Berger
Baltimore, MD 21218

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Zackary Berger

My name is Zackary Berger, and I live in Baltimore City in District 43. I submit this testimony in support of SB478/HB16, Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act).

I am writing as a primary care physician for undocumented Spanish-speaking immigrants. It is a continuing tragedy that these people coming to our country for a better life are victimized by brutal, negligent Federal agencies who exist only to enforce bewildering, arbitrary, and purposeless laws against those who make our country worth living in. That our State agencies collect the blood money of Federal agencies to jail and mistreat immigrants is a black mark on Maryland and all elected officials who eagerly traffic with ICE.

If you sat with me in the clinic you would see the trauma these people go through to get here. They should be welcomed and supported, not jailed for crossing imagined boundaries as they flee from violence and danger.

I recall the story of M., a patient of mine in her 40s, who fashioned a raft to cross a river and the US-Mexico border. She lives in Maryland. Her husband was deported for a civil offense. I met H. in Washington state. He worked in vineyards for 35 years, and because he was caught speeding, he was torn away from his 3 children.

I am testifying for the Dignity not Detention Act to cease complicity with these brutal acts on the part of our government. And since, as far as I am aware, ICE will not be dismantled under the new Federal administration, this topic will remain current no matter who lives in the White House. **I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478/HB16.**

SB478- FAV - Joanna Silver, JUFJ.pdf

Uploaded by: Lloyd, Rianna

Position: FAV

February 10, 2021



Joanna Silver
Silver Spring, MD 20902-4010

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Joanna Silver, on behalf of Jews United for Justice

My name is Joanna Silver and I live in Silver Spring, Maryland. I advocate on behalf of a number of local organizations. I submit this testimony on behalf of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ). JUFJ organizes more than 5,500 Jewish Marylanders and allies in support of local and state campaigns for social, racial, and economic justice.

Jewish tradition teaches us that “when strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The sojourners who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” In order to uphold these values, we must pass SB478.

When immigrants are detained by ICE, they are detained for civil offenses; they do not have the right to appointed counsel, and in Maryland they are detained in the exact same jails as people serving criminal sentences. I have worked for the past 20 years as a public defender at the state and federal level here in Maryland so I have spent a lot of time in our jails. People detained by ICE face the same loss of liberty that anyone else incarcerated by our government does: having your every moment and every movement controlled by another; living in close quarters with strangers who are living under the same stressful conditions that you are; being at the mercy of prison staff, who often do not speak your language, for everything you need; having minimal and usually substandard physical and mental health care; being subjected to solitary confinement; being unable to work to support your family and instead being a financial drain on your family because being in prison is not free – everything costs money – phones, clothes, toiletries, in some prisons, health care; and, of course, being separated from your family. This separation is particularly difficult for individuals in ICE custody because their family members without lawful status often cannot visit them.

I also know from my professional experience that people who are detained by ICE who have also had involvement in our criminal justice system are in ICE custody because our criminal justice system has decided to release them. They are in ICE custody because a state (or in some cases, a federal) court judge, often with the agreement of a prosecutor, decided their criminal conduct warranted a particular sentence, and now they are done with that sentence; they are in ICE custody because they have a new criminal charge and a judge decided that it was safe to release them into the community while their criminal case is pending; or they are in ICE custody because their criminal case has been dismissed. In all of these cases, they are in ICE custody for their civil

removal proceeding only; our criminal justice system has decided it does not need to incarcerate them further to protect our community. At this point, they are no different from anyone else who has finished their time in our criminal justice system – that they are also wanted by ICE for civil removal proceedings is a federal immigration matter – our State should not be involved with this process.

Further, our State should not want to be involved with this process given how cruel and unjust we know this process to be. While I do not believe anyone should be subjected to incarceration for a civil violation, and certainly not without an absolute right to appointed counsel, the immigration detention system is particularly pernicious because its very existence drives ICE's enforcement efforts and detention practices. The more beds ICE has available, the more interior enforcement it engages in and the more that people who have lived here for years, often with their families, are targeted and detained. For example, the detained population in Maryland shifted over the past few years as beds were filled with people sent up from the border; the population shifted back to interior enforcement when Trump's Remain in Mexico program decreased border apprehensions.

Similarly, ICE is more likely to detain someone during a routine check-in if there are beds available, and Department of Homeland Security attorneys are more likely to ask the Immigration Judge to set a high bond if ICE has beds available; conversely they are more likely to agree to a low bond if ICE does not. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ICE decreased interior enforcement and released many more detainees with no or very low bonds simply because the agency did not want to deal with the liability of a large detained population.

SB478 would end our state's complicity in this shameful and unjust system and decrease the harmful impact that ICE is having on our immigrant community members and their families.

I strongly and respectfully urge you to reach a favorable report on SB478.

SB478- FAV -Rebecca Goldfinger.pdf

Uploaded by: Lloyd, Rianna

Position: FAV

February 10, 2021

Rebecca Goldfinger
Silver Spring, MD 20901

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Rebecca Goldfinger

My name is Rebecca Goldfinger. I live in Silver Spring in District 20. I am here testifying in support of SB478/HB16, Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act).

As a Jewish person, I am commanded to live by the Biblical words of Exodus 22:21: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

Like so many other Jews in this country, I am descended from brave people who left Eastern Europe to escape religious persecution and poverty. One of my maternal great-grandmothers left the Ukraine because of pogroms there and arrived in the United States at the age of seventeen, alone, speaking no English. Fortunately, she went on to meet my great-grandfather, and they were lucky enough to achieve the American Dream of a better life for their children and their children's children. But I am haunted by this thought: what if my forebears had not been so lucky? What if, instead, they had been apprehended by ICE and detained for months, weeks, or years in a detention center?

Reading stories about CASA members who have been picked up by ICE, detained, and even deported both breaks my heart and makes me wonder: what if this had happened to my great- or great-great-grandparents? I might well not be here today. And I cannot begin to fathom the disruption to detainees' lives. Many of them have already fled oppression in their countries of origin and arrived in the United States, thinking that they were going to be able to have a better life in this country, as my own ancestors did. These hopes are dashed when they are detained or even deported.

Because my own family were once strangers here, I empathize with people whose journeys from other places are a bit more recent than mine. I feel very strongly that we must not detain

or deport immigrants, but rather allow them to establish themselves in American society, as my own family did.

For this reason, I support the Dignity Not Detention Act, which would prohibit the State or any local jurisdiction from entering into agreements facilitating immigration-related detention by private entities, ensure that the public is adequately informed of and given opportunity to testify about any plans for a new private detention facility's construction, and require governmental entities to terminate existing contracts for the detention of immigration-related detainees not later than October 1, 2022.

I believe that as a country, we must stop wronging the immigrants in our midst, and I believe that this legislation is a step in the right direction. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB478/HB16.** Thank you very much for your consideration.

SB0478 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Lopez, Daisy

Position: FAV

To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Daisy Lopez, a senior at Northwood High School. I am writing to you to urge you to support SB 0478/ HB 0016 in this legislative session, which will prevent MD local and state governments from going into contract with facilities for immigration detention, require public notification and allowing public comment on awarding permits to private businesses going into contract with ICE, and end existing government private detention centers. These centers are depriving families of human rights and profiting off of dehumanization. This is clearly not a political matter- it is one of humanity. Seeing families being separated, incarcerated, and put in miserable conditions, I can not stay silent, and I hope you won't either.

Charlene Belsom Zellmer_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Martinez, Ashanti

Position: FAV

SB 478/HB 16 – SUPPORT
Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer, MDiv
Interfaith Minister Maryland District 16
cbzellmer7@msn.com
301.442.6448

SB 478/HB 16 SUPPORT

Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not
Detention Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee/House Judiciary Committee
February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Today you consider SB478 (HB16). I believe that you have a unique opportunity to exercise your discretion and vote to side with love, to act humanely and fairly, and to keep Marylanders together safely and predictably in our State.

I am an Interfaith Minister in the region. I live in Montgomery County, District 16. As an Interfaith Minister, I am called to respect all who dwell together on this Earth. I faithfully believe that we cannot allow counties to profit from the inhumane and immoral detention of individuals who have committed civil immigration violations. I have witnessed the fear of our undocumented neighbors: fears of detention, family separation, deportation. Dona Rosa Gutierrez Lopez, who sought Sanctuary in Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church for two years, would never have needed Sanctuary if we were able to enact appropriate immigration reform, excluding the need for detention. I believe this will happen. In the meantime, allow our neighbors like Rosa to live free in the community while they await due process on their court cases. Detention is not THE answer to staying in touch with those who seek life in our country, in our state. We have seen so many cases of abuse and corruption in ICE jails, especially during this tragic pandemic. We cannot allow these facilities or contracts for ICE detention with local jurisdictions to be built or to continue. Allow families to be together. Allow those seeking hope in the US the opportunities to work, pay taxes, tend their homes, and wait until justice is served.

Please deliberate with compassion as this bill comes before you. Please return a favorable report for SB 478 and vote quickly on its passage.

With hope for peace and justice through love,

Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer, MDiv

Michael David_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Martinez, Ashanti

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB478(HB16) - Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

To: Senator Will Smith, Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Michael David (bionlaw@gmail.com)

Date: February 7, 2021

I am requesting your support of SB478, Dignity Not Detention Act. This law will prevent private or public entities in Maryland from engaging in immigrant-focused detention.

I am a resident of Howard County and have been actively campaigning to end Howard County's Intergovernmental Services Agreement with ICE. In July 2019 I had an opportunity to visit Howard County's detention center and observe conditions as well as interview immigrant inmates. The conditions were horrific and I particularly recall one immigrant who, after two years of detention, understood he will be expelled within the next two days. The conditions were so horrific and the lack of support and hope so dire that he was welcoming the end of his ordeal, even if this meant family separation. During this detention, the inmate did not work/provide for his US citizens family and was unable to earn wages that might have allowed him to hire an attorney. We must stop the harm we are causing by putting immigrants in detention. Nationally we need to create a more humane immigration system with a pathway to citizenship for undocumented people. Until that is completed, Maryland should not participate in or be complicit with the practices of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

ICE uses racial profiling to target select groups of immigrants that are overwhelmingly poor and people of color. I do not believe that Maryland should participate with organizations that engage in racist and dehumanizing practices. ICE has been terrorizing immigrant populations through its practices of separating families, arresting without valid warrants, forced sterilizations, forced labor, and spreading COVID-19. Fear and state-sanctioned violence is not a way to fix our defunct immigration system. No one in Maryland should be complicit with these practices.

Please do not support any exemptions for the three counties that currently have IGSA contracts. Howard County's detention facility has been cited by ICE multiple times for not meeting standards. Violations at our facility include using excessive strip searches, lack of medical care, and poor health and nutrition programs. It is time to end all contracts with ICE and get Maryland out of the business of detaining immigrants.

Please support SB478 with no exemptions.

Sincerely, Michael David, Columbia MD

410-370-2122

Nadine Bernard_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Martinez, Ashanti

Position: FAV

To: Senator Will Smith, Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceeds Committee
From: Nadine Bernard (nadine.bernard@comcast.net)
Date: Feb. 7th, 2021

I am writing to you to urge you to support SB478 (HB16). This is the Dignity not Detention Act. During the last four years of the Trump administration, we have seen an active assault on immigrants. ICE has been detaining non documented immigrants, and they have been incarcerating them in facilities throughout Maryland and the rest of the country. I feel this is a money-making proposition feeding prisons a steady stream of immigrants who are black and brown in color, poor, and unable to defend themselves. They are constantly being moved from facility to facility which is part of the money-making scheme. This puts immense stress on the community at large, and the family in particular, for crimes that are commonly civil and not criminal.

Take Howard County Detention, in which 84% of the detainees are from Central and South America, 10% are from Africa, and 2% from other regions. This population is vulnerable to ICE and abuse by our system. ICE has been terrorizing immigrant populations with questionable practices. Our detention centers are not to be used for the ability to offset expenses in counties that justify they need the money. Detaining someone should not be about making money. Dehumanizing whole populations is immoral and fear and state-sanctioned violence is not a way to fix our defunct immigration system.

Please, do not exempt the three counties that currently have IGSA contracts. Howard County's detention facility has been cited by ICE multiple times for not meeting standards and nutrition programs. Being cited by ICE is a low bar and we should simply get out of the business of allowing ICE to hunt and detain immigrants in our county facilities. It is time to end all contracts with ICE and get Maryland out of the business of profiting from detaining the brown and black immigrants who have no ability to defend themselves. It truly is a disgrace for our state to be involved and as a Howard County resident I am appalled our local leaders condone this sort of behavior. From my observation, it appears to be about the money, are we back in the business of making money off the downtrodden?

Please support SB478 with no exemptions. Let's get this done!

Sincerely,
Nadine Bernard, Laurel, MD

Phyllis Oresky_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Martinez, Ashanti

Position: FAV

February 7, 2021

Phyllis Oresky
Greenbelt, MD 20770
Phylmsw@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
**Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not
Detention Act)**

My name is Phyllis Oresky, and I have been a Maryland resident for 64 years, in District 22 for four of them. I am writing to you today in support of SB478, the Dignity Not Detention Bill.

On a personal note, my grandparents came to this country from Europe as immigrants, and my Jewish faith teaches me to “love your neighbor as yourself” and to treat every human being with respect and dignity, regardless of their country of origin. I am a member of Mishkan Torah Synagogue in Greenbelt, and a core team member of Bend the Arc Prince George’s County Minyan, and we work to better the lives of all Americans and all Marylanders, no matter what their race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or place of birth.

Unfortunately, these values are not universally practiced in this country at this time, as immigrant families are being torn apart, and as productive members of society are being incarcerated instead of being allowed to contribute to our communities, their families, and to the economy. ICE is being utilized by the federal government to detain and separate people, and states are profiting from contracting out beds for ICE detainees.

I am deeply troubled that the state of Maryland engages in this cooperation and in profiting off a relationship with ICE, and furthermore, that county and state officials are considering expanding this collaboration by possibly opening up even more detention centers in our state. We cannot wait and hope that the federal government under a new administration fixes ICE abuses; administrations will come and go, and these problems have persisted. We must act now, and lead the way for other states by example.

The Dignity Not Detention Bill will ban new or renewed contracts with detention facilities operated by private corporations, and will require the existing detention agreements to end the contract by June 2021. No new centers should be built. The current system offers no justice for immigrants.

I urge you to support this important legislation and respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Oresky

Richard Kohn_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Martinez, Ashanti

Position: FAV

Testimony of Richard Kohn, Ph.D.
Columbia, Howard County, MD
In Support of SB 478
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 10, 2021

Chairman Smith and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Richard Kohn from Columbia, MD and I strongly support Senate Bill 478 (Dignity Not Detention). No private or public organization in Maryland should be permitted to profit by detaining immigrants for civil immigration violations. All existing contracts with ICE should be canceled immediately starting with the agreement to hold immigrants in ICE detention in three counties in Maryland.

We already have a highly punitive criminal justice system to deal with criminals. Immigrants and people of color are already tried and punished disproportionately by this system. Immigrants in ICE detention centers are people who cannot be imprisoned by the criminal justice system because they were never accused or convicted of a crime, or if they were, they already served their entire sentence. Currently, they have to serve a second detention in our ICE facilities and this is unacceptable. None of them should be detained any longer for civil violations.

Notably, you can see from my address that I live near one of the state's notorious ICE detention centers which is located in Jessup Maryland. This facility was written up by the Department of Homeland Security's Inspector General for conducting unnecessary repeated strip searches as well as providing substandard meals (Oct. 28, 2020).

The Howard County Auditor published partial budgets showing a 75% profit margin that is maintained by spending only a few dollars a day per detainee on food and hygiene, and no money allocated for medicine (see attached addendum). Given these data, it is not surprising that inmates say they are not provided with adequate food or healthcare. Howard County claims to hold prisoners for ICE purely as a mercenary act without knowledge or concern for why they were detained in the first place.

ICE has operated as an illegal and racist organization selectively enforcing immigration civil violations with extreme measures against Black and Brown people. In fact, nearly all the immigrants in ICE detention in Howard County are from Mexico, Central America, Caribbean and Africa. ICE has left immigrants including children to die from neglect while in detention with inadequate food and shelter, and has forcibly sterilized women.

No private or public entity should be permitted to cooperate with ICE to engage in racial profiling and oppression in the state of Maryland. Please support SB 478.

Richard Kohn
Columbia, MD
RichardAKohn@gmail.com

Susan Keller_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Martinez, Ashanti

Position: FAV

February 7, 2021

Susan Keller
College Park, MD 20740
bikinglibrarian@yahoo.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

My name is Susan Keller, and I am a resident of College Park, MD. I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 478, the Dignity Not Detention Act.

I have lived in the 21st District since 1992 and I am a member of Mishkan Torah, a synagogue in Greenbelt, Maryland. Jewish tradition and teachings are very important to me, and as Jews, we are reminded to be kind to strangers, for we were once strangers in Egypt. Interestingly, this exhortation to be kind to stranger is mentioned more times in the Torah than is any other commandment. Like many people held in detention facilities in the United States, Jews have historically experienced persecution, hunger, and danger, so the issue of immigrant detention is personal for me.

The Dignity Not Detention Act is an important step Maryland should like to redress some of the injustices inflicted upon asylum seekers and other immigrants. The findings listed in the bill provide a strong basis for ending the practice of housing civil defendants in state-run institutions. Maryland has no obligation to provide the federal government with support in implementing immigration policy, and it should do all it can to divest itself from cooperation with ICE and its cruel practices of separating families and of detaining productive members of society.

I urge you to do the right thing and urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 478.

Respectfully yours,

Susan Keller

Susan Keller_FAV_SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Martinez, Ashanti

Position: FAV

February 7, 2021

Susan Keller
College Park, MD 20740
bikinglibrarian@yahoo.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
**Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not
Detention Act)**

My name is Susan Keller, and I am a resident of College Park, MD. I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 478, the Dignity Not Detention Act.

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The Dignity Not Detention Act is an important step Maryland should like to redress some of the injustices inflicted upon asylum seekers and other immigrants. The findings listed in the bill provide a strong basis for ending the practice of housing civil defendants in state-run institutions. Maryland has no obligation to provide the federal government with support in implementing immigration policy, and it should do all it can to divest itself from cooperation with ICE and its cruel practices of separating families and of detaining productive members of society.

I urge you to do the right thing and urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 478.

Respectfully yours,

Susan Keller

Tammy Spengler_FAV_SB234.pdf

Uploaded by: Martinez, Ashanti

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB234(HB23) - Judiciary – Personal Information-State and Local Agencies-
Restrictions on Access

To: Senator Will Smith, Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Tammy Spengler, Columbia, MD (Tammy424@me.com)

Date: January 24, 2021

I urge you to support of SB 234, Maryland Driver Privacy Act, requiring an officer, an employee, an agent, or Status: a contractor of the State or a political subdivision to deny inspection by a federal agency seeking access for certain immigration enforcement matters of a public record that contains personal information or a certain photographic images unless a valid warrant is provided; requiring law enforcement agencies operating certain databases to require certain individuals accessing the databases to provide certain information; requiring a certain annual report to the General Assembly; etc.

This bill separates the role of Maryland entities from participating in Federal law enforcement entities' inhumane and racist practices. Federal law enforcement would need to acquire a warrant to inquire and/or obtain information from State entities, such as someone's address. We should not participate in implementing Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) reign of terror campaign. ICE's tactics create distrust of the government in our marginalized communities and when we cooperate with ICE, they can no longer trust us.

It is time to stop the culture of incarceration and detention in our nation and create new pathways that meet the needs of our marginalized communities. Instead of controlling people through fear and intimidation, we should create pathways towards citizenship and belonging. ICE should not have unfettered access to people's personal information. IF federal authorities acquire a warrant, signed by a judge, then our state agencies can cooperate, otherwise residents' personal information should be protected.

I urge you to support SB234, Maryland Driver Privacy Act and create a safer, more inclusive Maryland.

Tammy Spengler

MurraySB478 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Murray, Kerriann

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 10. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kerriann Eileen Murray
221 Northway Rd, Reisterstown, 21136
Showing Up for Racial Justice

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.pdf

Uploaded by: Pereschuk, Alicia

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 43 I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alicia Pereschuk
404 W 29th St
Baltimore MD 21211
Showing Up for Racial Justice

SB478_FAV_Herbert_Charles.pdf

Uploaded by: Perkins, Toby

Position: FAV

Hearing Date: February 10, 2021
377 Ocean Parkway
Ocean Pines, MD 218141
charleseherbert@gmail.com
301 651 3165

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Charles Herbert, and I live in Worcester County, Maryland. My wife and I have lived in Worcester County since 2005. Before that, I lived in Montgomery County for twenty-six years. I am a retired United States Government Employee of 40 years. I have family members that are immigrants but were lucky enough to be from a country that had a special status and we are all descended from immigrants. It is clear that the current immigration process is so tainted and enforced that we shouldn't support it.

When I first moved to the county, I read about the expansion of our jail facilities to allow Worcester County to handle ICE detainees. But gradually I understood that this effort of Worcester County to expand its Hospitality Industry was a part of the process that treats people as prisoners who aspire to be Americans. I think the Worcester County Jail is well run. But the use of jails in our society has been overdone. As poorly as the jails serve society, private prisons are substantially worse than government-run jails but it is clear that Maryland should join those states to stop using prisons as part of our immigration process.

I urge a favorable report on SB478.

Sincerely,

Charles Herbert

SB478_FAV_IndivisibleWorcesterMaryland.pdf

Uploaded by: Perkins, Toby

Position: FAV



SB 478 / HB 16 - SUPPORT

Toby Perkins and Susan Buyer, Co-Coordinator
Indivisible Worcester Maryland
admin@indivisibleworcestermd.org
301-332-1920

SB 478 / HB 16 - SUPPORT

Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Indivisible Worcester Maryland is pleased to offer its testimony in support of SB478/HB16. Our all-volunteer group was founded in January 2017 in order to fight peaceably and Constitutionally against Trump's racist, misogynist, authoritarian, and corrupt agenda. We plan to continue for at least the next four years to speak out and work for equality among all people, a stronger democracy, and honest government, despite escalating right-wing political violence in the United States.

It is no secret that many policies Trump enforced through Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other agencies of the Federal government were rooted in old-fashioned, violent, American racism. His official violence towards immigrants of color led to denial of rights under U. S. law, indefinite incarceration, unjust deportation, separation of children, the spread of disease, and the deaths of untold thousands of migrants in the Southwestern deserts. It is no secret, either, that the same racism that motivated those violent policies is deeply rooted here on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore. After all, the Eastern Shore's two most illustrious historical figures were people of color, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas, who gained fame by escaping it.

Our group, predominantly White, struggles to change this legacy, but many people of color in Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset Counties have sound reason to be profoundly suspicious of anyone who looks like us. Trump's violence signaled that racism was our nation's official policy, further dividing us by race from our allies, emboldening injustice, and causing many who want to speak out new worries about their safety. That fear is real and realistic. Closing the detention center in Snow Hill will send a strong signal that political violence, official or otherwise, is no longer tolerable.

We have heard this bill's opponents say that it will deprive Worcester County of needed funds and stop the creation of jobs by private prisons. But those same opponents have refused to pursue more humane funding sources, and they have opposed the entry of more forward-looking, ethical industries into our County. Maryland's Eastern Shore must reject its racist legacy now and move forward without turning profits from hate.

We urge a favorable report on SB 478/HB16.

SB478_FAV_Jankowski_Joseph_Gail.pdf

Uploaded by: Perkins, Toby

Position: FAV

Hearing Date: February 10, 2021
11112 Spring Branch Lane
Berlin MD 21811
janfam83@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Our names are Joseph and Gail Jankowski, and we live in Worcester County, Maryland. We have been Maryland residents since 1978 and Worcester County residents since 2006.

We strongly support the passage of this bill for two main reasons. The first is that we do not believe that incarceration should be a for-profit business. While we know that Maryland does not currently have any private prisons, we want to make sure it stays that way. The second is that we strongly oppose ICE detention centers in Maryland, including the beds allocated for that purpose in our Worcester County Detention Center. Instead of detention, we support keeping families together, not detaining the family wage earner, and working with our immigrant population to move forward with legal immigration application and procedure in a reasonable time frame. We know that in our Worcester Detention Center are individuals brought here from much farther away, so their families cannot visit. They are also too far for their immigration lawyers or caseworkers to meet with them either. This practice has to end.

We urge a favorable report from your Committee on SB478.

Sincerely,
Joseph and Gail Jankowski

SB478_FAV_Miller_Margaret.pdf

Uploaded by: Perkins, Toby

Position: FAV

Hearing Date: February 10, 2021
15 Windward Court
Berlin, MD 21811
410-208-2756

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Margaret Miller and I live in Worcester County, Maryland. I moved here in 2006 from Baltimore and retired in 2016 from my job as a nurse attorney with The Medical Protective Company, a division of Berkshire Hathaway, which provided medical malpractice coverage to doctors, hospitals, dentists and other healthcare professionals.

One of my clients was a prison system healthcare provider who served numerous jails in Florida, Louisiana and Georgia. I got a good taste of the difference between how privately owned jails worked from those run by the state. All of the privately owned jails were interested only in profit, not the well being of the inmates. Too frequently the care rendered in the privately owned jail was driven only by cost, not the standard of care. These cases were difficult to defend and costly for my company because of the devastating results that occurred. I was surprised and saddened to learn that our own jail here in Worcester County was not only being used to hold ICE detainees, but could be privately funded. There should be no privately funded ICE detention Center here in this County and no jail anywhere in Maryland should be privately funded. Every day it does continue, people will be denied basic healthcare needs, will suffer needlessly and be cared for by healthcare providers who are not looking out for the inmates and detainees best interests, just what is the cheapest care. Especially in this pandemic, this should not be allowed to continue. Time is of the essence.

I urge a favorable report on SB478, the closure of the ICE Detention Center in Worcester County and cessation of privately owned jails and detention centers in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Margaret R. Miller, RN, JD

SB478_FAV_Pokhrel_Lauren.pdf

Uploaded by: Perkins, Toby

Position: FAV

Hearing Date: February 10, 2021
Lauren Hatch Pokhrel
6 7th St
Unit 703
Ocean City, MD 21842
Laurenh3@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lauren Hatch Pokhrel, and I live in Worcester County, Maryland. As a transplant from PA, I moved to the county to pursue a graduate degree at Salisbury University and build a life with my husband and now two sons. As a citizen of the U.S. married into an immigrant family and previous employee of an organization that works with immigrant communities on the Eastern Shore, I have seen first-hand the abominable way immigrants are treated in this country too often.

Passing this bill is necessary and must be done urgently. As a resident of this county, I was disgusted to learn an ICE detention center existed in the area and worse, is being profited from. Dignity not Detention ensures ethical treatment to immigrants. The horrors that ICE has committed to children, families, and individuals is reprehensible. This area has a chance to make a positive step towards morality, towards justice, towards what is right for humanity and our country through this bill. It must be passed now.

I urge a favorable report on SB478.

SB478_FAV_Roache_Joan.pdf

Uploaded by: Perkins, Toby

Position: FAV

Hearing Date: February 10, 2021
Joan Roache
402 14th St.
Ocean City, MD 21842

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joan Roache, and I live in Worcester County, Maryland. I have lived in Maryland since 1974 and in Ocean City since 2004.

I want to see the end of private prisons in Maryland and new county contracts for ICE detention. There should never be a financial incentive to arrest and detain someone. The prison system should be run by the government.

I also urge you to phase out existing ICE detention statewide, including the ICE Detention Center in Snow Hill here in Worcester County. A total overhaul of our immigration system is needed with a path to citizenship. Immigrants are important to our communities and our economy.

I urge a favorable report on SB478.

Sincerely,
Joan Roache

SB0478 MD NARAL SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Philip, Diana

Position: FAV



SB0478 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

Presented to the Honorable Will Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 10, 2021 1:00 p.m.

POSITION: SUPPORT

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland urges the Finance Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB0478 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)**, sponsored by Senator William C. Smith.

Our organization is an advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice which are routinely violated in immigration detention centers. Disturbing reports of forced sterilization, reproductive coercion, and denied medical care are clear violations of our organization's core values.

Private detention centers wrongly continue to profit off of the detention of foreign migrants by renting out their space to ICE. The financial incentivization to detain individuals is at its core already a malicious practice. However, in combination with the routine reproductive right violations, our organization cannot support the creation of more privately-run detention systems which will not abide by national medical care standards. SB0478 seeks to ban any new contracts or renewals of existing contracts with detention facilities operated by private corporations, ensures that the Marylanders be informed about plans for any new private detention facility to allow for public comment, and requires local entities that already have an existing immigration detention agreement to terminate the contract.

Disturbing reports of forced sterilizations, denied access to timely pregnancy-related healthcare, inadequate medical care, and unsafe conditions are among some of the gross human rights violations that have transpired in for-profit detention centers across the country. The American Civil Liberties Union recently published a report covering reproductive abuse in detention centers. Detailed in the report was a story of a detention center in Georgia where a former nurse employed at the facility reported rampant forced sterilizations among other forms of medical neglect.¹ In February of 2019, a 24-year old Honduran immigrant was denied access to medical care at one of these facilities and entered premature labor resulting in a stillbirth.² This devastating maternal health outcome could have been avoided if it hadn't been for the center's neglect and disregard for the health and safety of their detainees. These reports are among only some of the many that have come to light in recent years.

Reproductive abuses in for-profit detention centers are a violation of reproductive health, rights and justice. For these reasons, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland **urges a favorable committee report on SB0478**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ "ACLU News & Commentary," American Civil Liberties Union, September 23, 2020, <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/reproductive-abuse-is-rampant-in-the-immigration-detention-system/>

² Ibid.

SB0478_Dignity_Not_Detention_Plante_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Plante, Cecilia

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY FOR SB0478
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – IMMIGRATION DETENTION - PROHIBITION (DIGNITY NOT
DETENTION ACT)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am shocked and horrified by how intrusive immigration enforcement has become in our society and how the focus has changed to now consider immigrants and refugees as though they are all hardened criminals. More detention facilities have sprung up, and incarcerating immigrants has become a money-making proposition. That is not how we should behave. We should not profit off of someone else's pain.

Thinking, even for a moment, that having new detention centers will somehow make the incarceration conditions more favorable for immigrants is completely mistaken. What is happening in Maryland with immigrant detention is already horrific, as many of the people who visit immigrants in detention facilities have attested to. We cannot just turn a blind eye and think about the revenue implications. We must stop this practice.

This bill would prohibit local governments, counties or sheriff's offices from entering into contracts for detention facilities for immigrants in Maryland. It would also prohibit any entities from contracting with private firms to own or manage such facilities.

We need to close down the detention facilities that we already have that are run by private companies with little accountability and an eye towards making money. We need to re-think detention vs ankle bracelets or some other way of keeping track of undocumented immigrants while they are waiting to have their cases heard. Allow them to be productive citizens vs treating them as criminals.

We also need to be very wary of allowing additional incarceration infrastructure to be built in Maryland, as the long-term effects of that policy would be to have a state full of crumbling prisons and even more incarcerated immigrants. This is not who we are in Maryland.

I support this bill and I recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

SB0478_Dignity_Not_Detention_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Plante, Cecilia

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0478
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – IMMIGRATION DETENTION - PROHIBITION (DIGNITY NOT
DETENTION ACT)**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0478 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

We have all been shocked and horrified by how intrusive immigration enforcement has become in our society and how the focus has changed to now consider immigrants and refugees as though they are all hardened criminals. More detention facilities have sprung up, and incarcerating immigrants has become a money-making proposition. That is not how we should behave. We should not profit off of someone else's pain.

Thinking, even for a moment, that having new detention centers will somehow make the incarceration conditions more favorable for immigrants is completely mistaken. What is happening in Maryland with immigrant detention is already horrific, as many of the people who visit immigrants in detention facilities have attested to. We cannot just turn a blind eye and think about the revenue implications. We must stop this practice.

This bill would prohibit local governments, counties or sheriff's offices from entering into contracts for detention facilities for immigrants in Maryland. It would also prohibit any entities from contracting with private firms to own or manage such facilities.

We need to close down the detention facilities that we already have that are run by private companies with little accountability and an eye towards making money. We need to re-think detention vs ankle bracelets or some other way of keeping track of undocumented immigrants while they are waiting to have their cases heard. Allow them to be productive citizens vs treating them as criminals.

We also need to be very wary of allowing additional incarceration infrastructure to be built in Maryland, as the long-term effects of that policy would be to have a state full of crumbling prisons and even more incarcerated immigrants. This is not who we are in Maryland.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.pdf

Uploaded by: Powell, Holly

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 3. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Holly Powell
2308 Cambridge Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
Showing Up for Racial Justice

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.pdf

Uploaded by: Rehr, Nathan

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District **45**. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**. I am an active member of my community association and a health professional who is interested in eliminating the health disparities that occur with racial discrimination in our society.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathan Rehr

450 E. Federal Street Baltimore, MD 21202

Showing Up for Racial Justice

SR testimony SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Robson, Letitia

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 43.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of Senate Bill 478.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandy Robson

2108 Erdman Ave Baltimore MD 21218

Showing Up for Racial Justice

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.pages.pdf

Uploaded by: Rochkind, Jonathan

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 43. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



As a Jewish-American whose great-grandparents came here looking for a safe place to land while fleeing danger, I think we have a responsibility to leave the door open for others doing the same now. Most importantly, I think it is **unethical for corporations or local governments to profit from the detention of migrants** being held only for civil immigration violations.

Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rochkind
755 Melville Ave
Baltimore MD 21218

Showing Up for Racial Justice

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.pdf

Uploaded by: Rosenthal, Anne

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 40. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anne Rosenthal
810 Cathedral St, Baltimore, MD 21201
Showing Up for Racial Justice

SB0478- Support- JS(1).pdf

Uploaded by: Sell, Jennifer

Position: FAV

To the members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am a resident of District 33 and a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. I am testifying in support of SB0478, which do three important things:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equals profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland, and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of bill SB0478.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Sell
444 Lynwood Dr
Severna Park MD 21146

Copy of SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Shock, Jack

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 41. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jack Shock
4444 La Plata Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21211
Showing Up for Racial Justice

Nina Siulc DND Senate Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Siulc, Nina

Position: FAV



February 8, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB0478 Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera), we are writing in strong support of SB478, to prohibit new or the renewal of existing contracts with private entities for the purpose of immigration detention, and to end any current state or local contracts (Intergovernmental Service Agreements or “IGSAs”) for immigration detention by June 2021. This bill was passed by the Maryland General Assembly last session. We urge you to report this bill out favorably.

As you may know, the mission of Vera is to drive change and to build and improve justice systems that serve and foster safe, healthy, and empowered communities by fighting mass criminalization and ending mass incarceration. At Vera’s Center on Immigration and Justice, we work towards a vision of justice, fairness and freedom for immigrants, where the humanity and dignity of all people are centered.

Hundreds of thousands of immigrants each year, many seeking protection from persecution and violence, are criminalized and unnecessarily detained in jails and prisons across the country where it is difficult to access legal services and conditions are inhumane.¹ An estimated 70 percent of people in detention are left to fight for their lives alone, against trained government prosecutors in a system that is biased against them.² As a result, not only do immigrants languish in carceral conditions for indefinite periods of time, but those in detention are far less likely to reach a successful outcome in their immigration cases.³

¹ Due in part to the historic and unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and border enforcement trends, national detention population numbers are currently at historic lows. During FY 2020, ICE booked 182,000 people into detention, compared to more than half a million people in FY 2019. Though ICE is not currently using its full detention bed capacity, it remains funded at levels that permit it to detain hundreds of thousands of people per year. See FY2020 Detention Statistics and FY2019 Detention Statistics, <https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management>.

² For more information, see Vera’s testimony to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in support of SB317, Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings Bill (submitted on January 25, 2021), to establish the right to appointed counsel for detained immigrants and advance universal representation for immigrants facing deportation.

³ Ingrid V. Eagly & Steven Shafer, “A National Study of Access to Counsel in Immigration Court”, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 164, No. 1 (2015), 9 (detained immigrants with counsel obtained a successful outcome (i.e., case termination or relief) in 21% of cases, ten-and-a-half times greater than the 2% rate for their pro se counterparts), <https://perma.cc/7J65-CZCM>.

While the justification for depriving immigrants of their liberty has been that immigrants fail to appear in court, studies have shown this claim to be untrue.⁴ Instead, over the last several decades, our nation's civil immigration system has become an extension of the criminal legal system, carrying forward inhumane policies grounded in systemic racism that disproportionately impact Black immigrants.

As COVID-19 cases continue to surge across the country, we must ensure the health and safety of everyone in our communities. The ICE detention system is ill-suited to protect detained people from the COVID-19 pandemic, undermining broader attempts to address this public health crisis. There is inadequate oversight of conditions in these facilities, where claims of medical neglect and abuse are rampant, access to sanitizing products and protective equipment are lacking, and social distancing is often impossible. The majority of detained people do not have a lawyer to advocate for their release from detention or relief from deportation. And detention reinforces systemic racism and the disproportionate impacts of this pandemic: research suggests that Black immigrants are more likely to be detained than the overall immigrant population. Despite these concerns, **ICE has detained more than 114,000 people nationwide during the pandemic** and continues to book people from the community into detention and transfer people between facilities at an alarming rate and in defiance of public health recommendations.

ICE detention facilities, like other jails and prisons, have been the site of several hotspots and outbreaks, though the full scope of COVID-19 infection among people in detention is unknown due to poor oversight and monitoring. While ICE has been under-reporting the true scope of COVID-19 in detention,⁵ 9,241 people in detention are known to have tested positive for COVID-19 as of **February 5, 2021** at 124 of the more than 200 facilities in which ICE maintains beds. Fiscal year 2020 had the highest annual death toll of people in ICE custody in 15 years, with COVID-19 as the cause of eight of the 21 reported deaths. The frequent transfer of individuals throughout the immigration detention system poses unique threats to the rapid spread of the virus throughout the entire detention system.

Research by Vera has also shown that federal contracts with local jails through IGSA's have additional implications beyond the pandemic: the promise of federal revenue incentivizes

⁴ Nina Siulc and Noelle Smart, *Evidence Shows That Most Immigrants Appear for Immigration Court Hearings*, (New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2020), <https://www.vera.org/publications/immigrant-court-appearance-fact-sheet>

⁵ Vera researchers have built one of the only epidemiological models forecasting the likely spread of COVID-19 in ICE detention centers. The results are alarming: between March and May of this year, the number of people with COVID-19 in ICE facilities was likely 15 times higher than official numbers reported, and this was before COVID-19 infections would have peaked in detention. See Dennis Kuo, Noelle Smart, Zachary Lawrence, and Adam Garcia, *The Hidden Curve: Estimating the Spread of COVID-19 among People in Detention*, (New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2020), <https://www.vera.org/the-hidden-curve-covid-19-in-ice-detention>:

counties to overbuild their facilities and rely on the detention of immigrants and asylum seekers for financial gain. IGSA's have played a key role in jail expansion in the United States over the last few decades, enabling local administrators to build larger jails and expand their operating budgets by detaining community members and harming communities.⁶ All three current Maryland immigration detention centers are county jails that detain people on behalf of ICE through IGSA's. And in the summer of 2019, reports indicated that ICE was exploring opening a detention center near Baltimore County.⁷

While the new federal administration is taking initial steps to ameliorate some of the harms inflicted on immigrant communities and reduce mass incarceration, these steps do not address the majority of profit-based incentives that lead to mass incarceration, such as federal immigration detention centers run by private companies and the collaboration with state and local governments to hold people for ICE through IGSA's in jails and prisons. Local communities bear heavy costs due to the immigration detention and deportation system to respond to the needs of those who are left behind and the separation of families, including loss of housing, food insecurity, mental health impacts, foster care usage and business losses.⁸⁹ The fallout from detention inevitably leads to incalculable human and societal costs. And as more people are needlessly brought into detention amid a public health crisis, the threat to immigrants, staff, and our communities at large will compound, deepening the crisis, further straining our health care system, economy, and the state's efforts to contain the virus.

Maryland can and should take steps toward an immigration system that treats people with dignity and respect. To disable the racist drivers of the criminal legal to immigration system pipeline, to end the punitive consequences of being detained, to disable a punitive system that serves no purpose other than to demonize and criminalize people seeking a better life in this country, Maryland has an opportunity and imperative with SB478 and we therefore urge you to report out this bill favorably.

⁶ For more information, see Vera's In Our Backyards Initiative, <https://www.vera.org/in-our-backyards#>

⁷ Lillian Reed and Thalia Juarez, "ICE exploring possible Baltimore-area detention facility to hold 600 to 800 detainees," *Baltimore Sun* (July 18, 2019), <http://www.baltimoresun.com/politics/bs-md-pol-ice-detention-facility-20190708-20190718-ignt6vla6vgtbnbdlks5r46kj2m-story.html>.

⁸ See for example Randy Capps, Heather Koball, Andrea Campetella et al., *Implications of Immigration Enforcement Activities for the Well-being of Children in Immigrant Families* (Washington, DC: Urban Institute and Migration Policy Institute, 2015), <https://perma.cc/Z8V9-H6MK>

⁹ In Vera's analysis of 21 universal representation programs serving detained people (or "21 programs serving detained people without regard to the merits of the case"), the average length of residency in the United States by those selected for representation was 14 years. Seventy-seven percent (and 92 percent of those with Maryland residency) of those with families were the primary breadwinners. Although not representative of all people in detention, these statistics demonstrate that many people detained are entrenched members of the community. See *Rising to the Moment: Advancing the National Movement for Universal Representation (Years 1-3 of the SAFE Imitative)* (New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2020), <https://www.vera.org/downloads/publications/rising-to-the-moment.pdf>:



Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me at nsiulc@vera.org for additional questions or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Siulc".

Nina Siulc
Director of Immigration Research
Vera Institute of Justice

cc: Vice Chair Waldstreicher
Senator Bailey
Senator Carter
Senator Cassilly
Senator Hettelman
Senator Hough
Senator Jackson
Senator Lee
Senator Sydnor
Senator West

SB 478_FAV_ACLU_Spielberger.pdf

Uploaded by: Spielberg, Joe

Position: FAV



**Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 10, 2021**

**SB 478 – Correctional Services – Immigration Detention –
Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)**

JOSEPH SPIELBERGER
PUBLIC POLICY COUNSEL

FAVORABLE

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ANDREW FREEMAN
GENERAL COUNSEL

The ACLU of Maryland supports SB 478, the Dignity Not Detention Act, which would prevent private prison companies from operating immigration detention centers in Maryland.

The immigration detention population has risen dramatically over the past few decades, due to federal enforcement policies. To manage this influx, ICE has increasingly contracted with private for-profit prison corporations, and local and county jails to house more individuals. This usually happens in one of two ways: (1) ICE contracts directly with private companies, or (2) ICE contracts with sub-federal jurisdictions and localities pursuant to Intergovernmental Service Agreements, and in turn, they subcontract with private corporations to provide detention services.

As a result, 70% of people in ICE custody are detained by private prison companies.¹ Private immigration detention has become a lucrative, multi-billion dollar industry that shapes federal policy by implementing contracts, and lobbying at the federal, state, and local level.² The two largest private detention operators, Geo Group and CoreCivic (formerly Corrections Corporation of America), account for 80% of the industry, and received \$1 billion in federal contracts last year.³ As these companies reap massive profits, however, tens of thousands of immigrants are exploited in their care.

Even though the federal government oversees their detention facilities, private contractors largely operate without public oversight, transparency,

¹ Tara Tidwell Cullen, *Ice Released Its Most Comprehensive Immigration Data Yet. It's Alarming.*, Nat'l Immigrant Just. Ctr. (Mar. 13, 2018), available at <https://perma.cc/AQB9-HFPA>

² Denise Gilman & Luis A. Romero, *Immigration Detention, Inc.*, 6 J. on Migration & Hum. Security 145, 148 (2018).

³ Renae Merle & Tracy Jan, *Wall Street pulled its financing. Stocks have plummeted. But private prisons still thrive.* Washington Post, Oct. 3, 2019, accessed at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/10/03/wall-street-pulled-its-financing-stocks-have-plummeted-private-prisons-still-thrive/>



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Maryland

and accountability. They are not subject to constitutional requirements, administrative law, open records laws, and other legal checks that would otherwise apply to federal agencies doing the same work. Outsourcing immigration detention enables federal policies that may have otherwise been politically unviable. Without meaningful oversight, there is no incentive to provide for the health and safety or even treat humanely those entrusted to them. And so they do not.

As the private immigration detention business has become indistinguishable from the criminal justice system, there have been countless stories of willful neglect and the deliberate dehumanization of women, men, and children. As a matter of practice, contractors have exploited immigrant labor, provided low-quality medical care, abused detainees, and perpetuated inhumane living conditions. Immigrants in for-profit prisons have died from untreated HIV, untreated cancer, suicide, and heart attacks and seizures when staff waited too long to bring them to a hospital.⁴ Geo Group is currently facing litigation in several states for its inhumane treatment.⁵ While ICE is charged with monitoring their contractors, it fails to even enforce its own performance-based detention standards.⁶

Preemption

State and local laws may be preempted by federal law under the Supremacy Clause. However, there is a strong anti-commandeering presumption against preemption when Congress legislates in an area traditionally occupied by the states. There must be a “clear and manifest purpose of Congress” to supersede the States’ police powers.⁷ This bill does not task Maryland with changing federal immigration policy, only how it exercises its police powers. And where the Immigration Nationality Act provides for cooperation between

⁴ Seth Freed Wessler, “This Man Will Almost Certainly Die,” *The Nation* (Jan. 28, 2016), available at <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/privatized-immigrant-prison-deaths/>

⁵ Marcia Heroux Pounds, “ICE and its contractor Geo Group failed to treat immigrants humanely, lawsuit claims,” *South Florida Sun Sentinel* (Aug. 19, 2019), available at <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/fl-bz-geo-ice-detention-lawsuit-20190819-c55ygh36pjepjjobv5knifwexm-story.html>

⁶ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General, “ICE Does Not Fully Use Contracting Tools to Hold Detention Contractors Accountable for Failing to Meet Performance Standards” (Jan. 29, 2019), available at <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/taxonomy/term/1677>

⁷ *Arizona v. United States*, 567 U.S. 387, 400 (2012).



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federal and state governments, it specifically conditions that cooperation on compliance with state law.⁸

SB 478 takes an important step toward addressing the abuse and dehumanization that immigrants face at the hands of ICE and its private contractors. But it also challenges us to answer one of the most crucial questions of our time: How much should companies be able to profit off human misery and pain? The most vulnerable people from around the world risk their lives coming here because of the promises that our country offers. Mercenaries who turn public safety and upholding the rule of law into a profitable business are immoral in any language. We keep our communities safe despite what it costs, not because of it.

We urge a favorable report on SB 478.

⁸ See 8 U.S.C. § 1252c(a), § 1357(g).

D4CC - Support Dignity not Detention SB 478.pdf

Uploaded by: Sugarman, Kate

Position: FAV



SB 478/HB 016 – SUPPORT

Dr. Kate Sugarman, MD
Doctors for Camp Closure, Maryland
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301-343-5724

SB 478/HB 016 — SUPPORT

Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee/House Judiciary Committee

February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Chapter of Doctors for Camp Closure strongly supports SB 478, the Dignity not Detention Act. We are part of the national Doctors for Camp Closure organization (D4CC) which is a non-partisan organization of over 2,200 physicians and health care professionals from all specialties who oppose inhumane detention of migrants and refugees who are attempting to enter the United States of America.

We know as eyewitnesses, that there is no healthy amount of time for an immigrant to be detained. We have been inside of immigration detention centers and we know how hazardous these places are both to the immigrants and their families.

This issue has taken on a heightened sense of urgency as we face a worsening pandemic. Serious illnesses and deaths due to COVID continue to rise inside the prisons, not only for the detained immigrant but also for the staff at these facilities. All of these deaths are preventable and would not happen were these detention centers to close down.

We are part of a national network where we write medical affidavits on behalf of detained immigrants. We review detention medical records and interview the detained immigrants. Many times they receive medical care that is substandard and often are denied lifesaving medical care. As more and more detainees get sick from COVID, we hear more and more frequently how detainees coughing, burning with fever and vomiting, simply do not receive medical care at all.

In addition, family members suffer when their fathers and husbands are picked up by ICE and locked up out of reach from their family members. Families lose their wage earners and children lose their fathers. These children can no longer concentrate in school and suffer a host of psychological consequences.

We urge the passage of Dignity not Detention so that families can stay together and be healthy together.

D4CC urges a favorable report on SB 478/HB 16.

MDAID- Support Dignity not Detention SB 478 .pdf

Uploaded by: Sugarman, Kate

Position: FAV



SB 478/HB 16 – SUPPORT
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SB 478/HB 16 SUPPORT

Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee/House Judiciary Committee

February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

As a Maryland resident and on behalf of Maryland Against ICE Detention (MDAID), I urge this committee to report favorably on SB 478/HB 16, the Dignity Not Detention Act.

MDAID is a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals striving to stop immigration detention as well as systems that contribute to detention and deportation. We are made up of over 60 organizations and over 200,000 individual members and members of those organizations. We oppose both private and public ICE detention, including the current Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs) in Howard, Frederick, and Worcester Counties that reserve beds for ICE.

Evidence from ICE expansion efforts across the country shows that adding more detention beds results in more community raids (rife with racial profiling and “collateral arrests” of bystanders), more people detained at routine ICE check-ins, and more community members detained for civil violations. The consequences for our communities are severe. Our friends and neighbors, including those who have called Maryland home for decades, live in fear of being detained or deported, forcibly separated from their children, and prevented from supporting their families. This needs to stop.

Some of our members have been inside of ICE detention and know firsthand how detained immigrants are frequently denied medical care. In 2020, 21 people died in ICE custody.

The percentage of immigrant detainees housed in private prisons nationwide has increased steadily in the last decade, now reaching about 70%. A small number of corporations reap tremendous profits through federal contracts. These corporations—including Immigration Centers of America (ICA), which has been seeking to open a detention center in Sudlersville, a town of 400 people in Queen Anne’s county—have a history of maximizing profits at the expense of humane treatment of detainees and fair compensation for employees. ICA’s Farmville, Virginia, Detention Center has been subject to scrutiny over poor medical care, use of force and restraints, lack of religious accommodation, and poor environmental health and safety. In July of 2020, ICA-Farmville was the site of the nation’s largest COVID-19 outbreak in detention, leading directly to the death of James Hill.

This issue has now taken on greater urgency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An ICE jail is the perfect setting for the spread of COVID as people are packed in very close quarters without proper ventilation, face masks, or hygienic conditions in general.

The result is a growing number of immigrants getting sick and dying. Prison staff are also bringing in COVID-19 from the outside, which is resulting in a growing number of deaths of staff members. In turn,



SB 478/HB 16 – SUPPORT
Kate Sugarman
Maryland Against ICE Detention
katesugarman@hotmail.com
301-343-5724

this accelerates community spread of infection. Immigration detention is then a direct threat to public health.

Numerous state and local governments around the country have rejected being part of ICE’s cruel, costly, and destructive system of immigrant detention. It is time for Maryland to step forward as well.

Immigration detention has no place in the state of Maryland.

MDAID urges a favorable report on SB 478/HB 16.

TPM testimony on 2021 SB478_HB16 - SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Syrrakos, Holly

Position: FAV



**SB478/HB16 - SUPPORT
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES - IMMIGRATION
DETENTION - PROHIBITION
(DIGNITY NOT DETENTION ACT)**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Takoma Park Mobilization urges a favorable report on SB478, the Dignity Not Detention Act. As a grassroots organization with over 2300 members, we work toward a just and equitable society; we work in partnership with organizations that represent the most impacted, while standing with the least powerful among us.

SB478 would stop immigration detention (public and private) in Maryland. How does this relate to Takoma Park Mobilization's core value of shared humanity? Among the most dehumanizing things you can do to someone is to lock them up. Privacy and basic choices (what to wear, what to eat, who to spend time with) are denied. Medical neglect, violence, and human rights violations are endemic. People who are detained can no longer provide for their families as breadwinners and/or caregivers, and can no longer contribute to their communities as workers and volunteers (in churches, schools, community sports leagues, and more). And detention is a form of family separation; approximately 6 million U.S. citizen children live with at least one family member who is undocumented, and after a raid or arrest, the majority of children display multiple behavioral changes as their family is thrown into turmoil.

SB478 is urgent; Maryland residents—immigrant and non-immigrant—cannot afford to wait for another session. Medical and human rights abuses in ICE detention, including county facilities in Maryland, were well-documented before COVID-19; detention has now become even more dangerous. ICE deportation, which commonly follows detention, has more deeply torn apart families and communities, and it has seeded COVID-19 outbreaks in vulnerable countries worldwide. Immigrant communities have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, while contributing as essential workers to the systems that allow many other people to remain safe; yet despite paying taxes, undocumented immigrants generally don't qualify for financial relief. Being targeted by ICE is ever more cruel.

It bears noting that ICE has not always existed (it was established in 2003), and immigration detention was rare before the rise in mass incarceration in the 1980s and 1990s. A number of alternatives to detention exist, though each type needs its own examination; immigration detention is not inevitable, not necessary, and not humane. Maryland needs to recognize and reject this destructive trap.

We therefore urge a favorable report on SB478.

Submitted for Takoma Park Mobilization by Laura Atwood, laura_a79@hotmail.com, 301-587-3876, February 10, 2021

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Todd, Tamara

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 10. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Tamara Todd
221 Northway Rd, Reisterstown, MD 21136
Showing Up for Racial Justice

Testimony Draft.pdf

Uploaded by: Waribe, Nelly

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB478(HB16) - Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

To: Senator Will Smith, Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Nelly Waribe, (nellywaribe@gmail.com)

Date: February 8, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB478 which bans any new contracts or renewals of existing contracts with detention facilities operated wholly (or in part by) private corporations; ensures that the public is adequately informed in any plans for a new private detention facility to take place; requires local entities that already have an existing immigration detention agreement (Intergovernmental Service Agreement (IGSA) to terminate the contract by June 2021.

I'm writing this testimony as an immigrant on behalf of my brothers and sisters. I was born in Kenya, Africa in 1992, but immigrated here in early 2002 to join my parents. I did not fully understand the intersections of immigration and incarceration until my friend's involvement with the criminal justice system beginning in 2016. Chris served two years for a theft charge at the Roxbury Correctional institution (RCI). Upon completing his sentence, he could not be released because the prison was holding him as they waited for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to pick him up. He was then transferred to the Frederick County Adult Detention Center (FCADC).

This jail is among the three, including Howard and Worcester, that have immigration detention agreements with ICE that allow counties to profit off the incarceration of detained immigrants. Their profit was at the expense of my friend's dignity, personhood, livelihood, and sanity. The longer his stay went on, the more it affected him. The uncertainty of his immigration hearing coupled with the conditions at the jail drained his will to fight. He often remarked that he would rather had been at RCI rather than FCADC. There was absolutely nothing to do at FCADC. It did not provide the kind of programming that RCI did. Additionally, it was expensive to maintain himself there because there were charges associated with daily living. This is a direct result of the privatization of our jails, not only in their functioning, but through the services offered. Eventually, Chris became so desperate that he started using the funds that friends had raised for him to obtain an attorney.

Soon afterwards, Chris decided it was no longer in his best interest to stay in jail under such conditions while awaiting his elusive court date. Even though he had an attorney willing to work on his case, financial contributions from his friends, and three children, all born in the United States and under ten years of age, he opted for self-deportation. It weighed heavily on his heart that he would not be able to see his children again in the foreseeable future, but he felt like he did not have a choice. What do you think? Did he have a choice? Had you been in his shoes, would you had made the same decision?

I'm also writing this testimony as a social work student and a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Having attained a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and graduating with a Master's degree in Social Work in May, I feel strongly drawn to the profession's values, beliefs, knowledge, and skills. Social workers have an obligation to challenge social injustice, especially with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people. This includes immigrants, documented and undocumented immigrants. The old and the young. The DACA recipient as well as the detained immigrant. The dignity and worth of a person is rooted in their humanity, not citizenship. The Dignity Not Detention Act is one step toward ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland. This bill will keep ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland - and ensure that no local governments or corporations are profiting off of the incarceration and suffering of immigrants. Remember that their profit is at the expense of immigrants' dignity, personhood, families, livelihood, and sanity.

I urge you to challenge the grave injustice of profit over people by voting favorably for SB478. Thank you for your consideration.

Nelly Waribe

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Katherine

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District **12**. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



Senate bill 478 accomplishes three important things; it:

- Ends government contracts with private prisons
- Requires that the public be informed of future plans for private detention
- Local governments must terminate existing agreements to house ICE detainees (IGSAs).

ICE has a long-documented history of unsafe housing conditions, including insufficient medical care. In 2020, some of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in immigration detention centers, including nearly 90% of detainees infected in Farmville, Virginia. ICE detainees are more than 13 times likely to contract COVID-19 as the general public.

In addition, private, for-profit prisons are motivated by cutting costs — like medical staffing and other contracted staffing. They are also financially motivated to increase the number of detainees. In a system where people equal profit, cost-cutting and overcrowding lead to poor conditions for detainees, many which have no criminal background and are being held to await a civil immigration trial.

Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katherine Wilkins

10651 Gramercy Pl, Unit 257, Columbia, MD 21044

Showing Up for Racial Justice

Testimony on Dignity Not Detention Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Wilson, Lorraine

Position: FAV

Lorraine Wilson
8719 62nd AVE
Berwyn Heights,
Maryland

Testimony Concerning: SB0478/HB0016 DIGNITY NOT DETENTION ACT

February 10, 2021

Judicial Proceedings Hearing

Position: SUPPORT

Honorable Judicial Proceedings Committee Members

As you probably know, ICE has 3 Detention Centers in Maryland and have been attempting to open another. The long history of abuse in detention centers is undeniable. In addition to those already existing conditions which include inhumane treatment, inadequate medical care, and physical and sexual assaults, ICE has failed to safeguard those in detention against the current pandemic. Detainees are 13X more likely to contract COVID than the general public.

The Dignity Not Detention Act would do the following:

Ban new contracts or renewals of existing contracts with detention centers operated by private corporations (wholly or in part).

Ensure that the public has adequate information about any plans before a new private detention agreement (GSAs) takes place.

Would require local entities that have such agreements to terminate the contract by 2021.

This Act would ensure that Maryland's local governments or corporations are not profiting off the incarceration and suffering of immigrants.

Thank you. I sincerely hope you will SUPPORT this Bill.

Lorraine Wilson

301-474-5221

barranw@comcast.net

SB 478-Dignity Not Detention.pdf

Uploaded by: Yoder, Daryl

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of MD District 12. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 478**.



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Counties like Howard, Frederick, and Worcester bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars from renting their bed space to ICE. This further incentivizes detention. Our government should not be profiting off the unjust treatment of Maryland residents.

This bill will stop ICE from detaining immigrants in Maryland and ensure that local governments do not profit off the detention of immigrants. This is an important step in ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of Senate Bill 478**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Daryl Yoder

309 Glenmore Ave.

Catonsville, MD 21228

Showing Up for Racial Justice

SB478.pdf

Uploaded by: Crisafulli, Matthew

Position: UNF

Worcester County Sheriff's Office

Matthew Crisafulli
Sheriff



Douglas Dods
Chief Deputy

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Committee members,

As the Sheriff of Worcester County, my primary goal is and always will be the safety of my residents and visitors.

This bill reduces the detention facilities autonomy to run their agencies. Our detention facilities should not be limited in their scope to function safely and efficiently.

I believe that people should be able to enter our wonderful country, legally. There are steps that people can take to do that. When we have people here illegally, we are taking away the quality control measures to ensure the safety of our residents.

As a leader and protector of my county, I implore you to consider the ramifications of releasing illegal people into our streets. This potentially increases the crimes that our residents face. Again, people that want to enter the United States should follow the legal process and have proper documentation.

It's our responsibility to protect our residents from crime. This bill should be opposed to help our residents feel safe and secure, as they are afforded under the constitution of our wonderful country.

I strongly encourage that Senate Bill 478 be opposed for the safety of our residents.

Sheriff Matt Crisafulli

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Crisafulli", written over the typed name.

“Proud to Protect, Ready to Serve”

Worcester County Sheriff's Office
One West Market Street, Room 1001
Snow Hill, MD 21863
410-632-1111- phone / 410-632-3070- fax
www.WorcesterSheriff.com

Worcester County Commissioners - Opposition to HB

Uploaded by: Moses , Kim

Position: UNF



OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Worcester County

GOVERNMENT CENTER
ONE WEST MARKET STREET • ROOM 1103

SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

21863-1195

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
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February 2, 2021

Senate Delegation for the Eastern Shore
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

House Delegation for the Eastern Shore
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Senator Mary Beth Carozza
314 James Senate Office Building

Honorable Senator Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.
420 James Senate Office Building

Honorable Senator Adelaide C. Eckardt
322 James Senate Office Building

Honorable Delegate Charles J. Otto
321 House Office Building

Honorable Delegate Wayne A. Hartman
308 House Office Building

Honorable Delegate Christopher T. Adams
426 House Office Building

Honorable Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes
427 House Office Building

Honorable Delegate Johnny Mautz
424 House Office Building

Honorable Delegate Carl Anderton, Jr.
310 House Office Building

Honorable Delegate Steven J. Arentz
308 House Office Building

Honorable Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist
430 House Office Building

Honorable Delegate Jay A. Jacobs
321 House Office Building

RE: Opposition to HB 16 and SB 478 (Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition - (Dignity Not Detention Act))

Dear Distinguished Senators and Delegates representing the Eastern Shore:

The Worcester County Commissioners reviewed a copy of House Bill 16 and Senate Bill 478 (Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition - Dignity Not Detention Act). We understand that these bills would prohibit governmental entities in Maryland, including Worcester County, from housing immigration-related detainees as of October 1, 2022. The Worcester County Commissioners unanimously oppose this legislation and ask that you vigorously oppose these bills on our behalf.

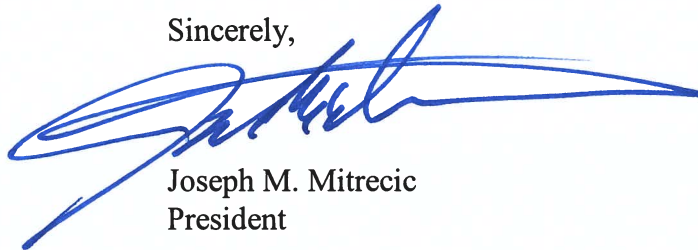
Eastern Shore Delegation
February 2, 2021
Page 2

Worcester County has been housing up to 200 immigration-related detainees under contract with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) since 1999. We provide a safe and secure environment for these detainees who are pending processing under federal regulations. The Worcester County Jail, and others in Maryland, play a critical role in providing sufficient facilities to house these immigration-related detainees.

The Worcester County Jail was expanded in 2011 to increase our capacity from 319 beds to 502 beds to house our seasonal influx of detainees during the summer season, but also to provide additional space for immigration-related detainees during the rest of the year. Furthermore, our annual budget for the Worcester County Jail relies heavily on revenues from ICE to support our operations. Specifically, ICE revenues in FY19 contributed \$5.1 Million towards our total Jail budget of \$9.2 Million. Prohibition of these services and the resulting loss of revenues would be devastating to the operations of the Worcester County Jail.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We would sincerely appreciate your support in opposing House Bill 16 and Senate Bill 478. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either me or Harold L. Higgins, Chief Administrative Officer, at this office.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Mitrecic
President

KM
CC: Donna Bounds, Warden

SB 478 - Dignity Not Detention.pdf

Uploaded by: MULLICAN, Brigitta

Position: UNF

Oppose **Senate Bill 478 - Dignity Not Detention** February 8, 2021

Brigitta Mullican, 1947 Lewis Ave, Rockville, MD 20851- District 17

Dear Committee Members,

Please oppose Senate Bill 478 – Dignity Not Detention

- The Bill is a bad safety policy, “The State, local governments, sheriffs, and their officers/employees are prohibited from entering into agreements with private detention facilities.”
- Government should 1) support the State, local governments, sheriffs, and their officers/employees to pay costs associated with a private detention facility, 2) should not be prohibited from receiving any payments from a private detention facility, and 3) should allow approval of variances or permits for a private detention facility unless they provide public notice 180 days before authorizing the zoning variance or permit and allows public comments on the proposal.
- Immigration detention agreements must **Not** be terminated.

DO NOT approve SB 478

- This bill is an attempt by the Annapolis Democrats and the illegal alien support groups to make it more difficult for Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to do their job. Federal laws must be enforced.
-
- Private immigration detention facilities generally meet higher standards than local jails or prisons.
-
- If illegal aliens cannot be detained in private facilities in Maryland, they will just be held in other states, further from their lawyers and any family.
-
- Private detention facilities provide both jobs and a federal income stream to local communities that want them. Adopting a "one-size-fits-all" policy statewide would take that away from those communities.
-
- The bottom line is that Maryland citizens are safer when we remove criminal illegal aliens from our streets and communities. Fewer places available to lock up criminals is bad public policy.
-

- Maryland lawmakers should focus on enhancing the public health and safety and the quality of life for all Maryland residents, and not worry about the "dignity" of those illegally in our country and set for deportation.

Thank you.

Maryland testimony opposing SB 478 - Dignity Not D

Uploaded by: Rendall, Shari

Position: UNF

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*Board of Directors Emeritus

FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest.



February 5, 2021

The Honorable William Smith, Jr., Chairman
Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Smith and other distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is an non-profit, non-partisan organization of concerned individuals who believe that our immigration laws must be reformed to serve our nation’s interests.

FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment.

Founded in 1979, FAIR has three million members and supporters nationwide including approximately 12,300 in Maryland. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR’s opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 478.

SB 478 prohibits state and local jurisdictions from entering into agreements with any private detention facility or contractor, paying any costs or receiving any payments from private detention facilities or contractors, and approving zoning variances and permits for private detention facilities or contractors unless notice has been provided for 180 days to allow public comment. Additionally, SB 478 requires state and local jurisdictions to end all immigration detention agreements by October 1, 2022.

The majority of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities are private because the facilities are well run and more efficient, costing taxpayers less money. However, many open-borders advocates demonize private detention facilities, hoping to convince the American people that no individuals entering the United States illegally should be detained. This concept of open borders has public safety and national security risks. Ninety percent of the illegal aliens arrested by ICE in the interior of the United States are either convicted criminals or face pending criminal charges. If these individuals were released back into the community instead of detained, approximately half would re-offend within a year and 75 percent



would re-offend within five years, according to former ICE Director Tom Homan.

In addition, proponents of the bill claim these private facilities operate outside the purview of public oversight and accountability. However, this is simply untrue. The private companies and contactors that operate these facilities must comply with strict governmental requirements as well as national accreditation and certification standards.

Moreover, policies like SB 478 hamper ICE's ability to effectively accomplish its statutorily mandated mission to identify and ultimately remove illegal aliens. However, if Maryland enacts this legislation, it will not succeed in stopping the detention of illegal aliens. It will simply raise the detention costs on taxpayers and it will mean individuals will be detained in other states further away from their families and counsel.

Finally, SB 478 imposes a "one-size-fits-all" policy statewide on communities that have already made the decision locally that they want a private detention facility. Such facilities provide both well-paying jobs and streams of federal revenue to localities that are already in dire straits due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic downturn. Enacting SB 478 could likely pull the rug out from under these localities and be economically devastating.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, if I may be of assistance. I may be reached by email at srendall@fairus.org or by phone at 202-328-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Rendall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shari Rendall

SB0478-JPR_MACo_OPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Sanderson, Michael

Position: UNF



Senate Bill 478

*Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)*

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: February 10, 2021

From: Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 478 as it imposes stringent limitations on local government autonomy that have significant consequences on the ability to manage local jail operations.

MACo consistently opposes legislation that preempts local authority and autonomy via state law. It is our policy to oppose legislation that imposes a state standard upon local personnel practices, limits county land use authority, or requires counties to deliver (or not deliver) local services in specific ways. In each of these cases, and those similar to them, MACo believes locally elected officials are in the best position to respond to their community needs and are directly accountable to the communities they serve.

SB 478 limits the manner in which counties may operate their local detention facilities in regards to federal immigration detention. It would prohibit the continued operation of long held federal contracts and agreements that have been locally assessed and implemented. These arrangements, between levels of government, undergo appropriate local scrutiny for safety and potential community impact. Such management of county jail contracts and policies should be left to the discretion of those counties.

Counties recognize the difficult decisions the State faces regarding a range of immigration-related proposals, however, urge caution against passing legislation that may have other far-reaching consequences on the authority of local governments to manage their operations. For these reasons, MACo urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 478.

SB 478 Written Testimony 2_10_2021 (Detention Faci

Uploaded by: Waychoff, Amy

Position: UNF

SB 478
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Oppose

February 10, 2021

My name is Amy Waychoff, and I have been a resident of Montgomery County for over 33 years. I am writing in opposition to SB 478, the “Dignity Not Detention Act.” Private immigration detention facilities generally meet higher standards than local jails or prisons. If illegal aliens cannot be detained in private facilities in Maryland, they will just be held in other states, further from their lawyers and any family. Private detention facilities provide both jobs and a federal income stream to local communities that want them. Adopting a “one-size-fits-all” policy statewide would take that away from those communities. The number one priority of government is to keep its citizens safe. That includes keeping them safe from criminal illegal aliens. So it does not make sense to tie the hands of law enforcement agencies when it is their job to keep criminals off the streets. I therefore respectfully request that you vote against SB 478.

Sincerely,

Amy Waychoff
4511 Amherst Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
LD 18
waychoff@comcast.net