

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.
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- Private immigration detention facilities generally meet higher standards than local jails or prisons.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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- 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.