

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.