



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 16
Delegate Vaughn
Stewart,
(Judiciary Committee)

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

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 16 – Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act) – This bill prohibits the State or any local jurisdiction from entering into an agreement relating to the establishment of an immigration detention facility owned or operated by a private entity. The bill prohibits the State or any local jurisdiction from approving a zoning variance or permit for the construction or conversion of buildings that will be used by private entities as an immigration detention facility without first notifying the public and holding public meetings for comment. The bill also prohibits the State or any local jurisdiction from entering into or renewing an immigration detention agreement. The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

While immigration is controlled by federal law, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Immigration, Customs, and Enforcement Division (ICE) have initiated numerous programs that involve state and local law enforcement agencies as allies and additional resources. Under DHS's Priority Enforcement Program (PEP), ICE would seek the transfer of a removable individual after that individual had been convicted of a specified offense, had intentionally participated in an organized criminal gang to further the illegal activity of the gang, or posed a danger to national security.

In 2019, the Prince George's County Council unanimously passed CB-62-2019, a law to bar all County agencies from engaging in immigration enforcement to reduce fear among our growing immigrant population so they would feel comfortable interacting with law enforcement, including reporting crimes and serving as witnesses. The Council has long been a champion of comprehensive immigration reform that removes disproportional consequences for non-citizens.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 16** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772