

I am providing this testimony to show my unequivocal support for this bill.

Human rights and human dignity – of all people – are not for sale. They are not commodities for private companies to profit from them.

Incarceration of individuals, albeit sometimes justified, is a serious infringement of every person's most basic freedoms. That is why incarcerating individuals, for whatever reason, should only be the government's duty and responsibility, with all the checks and balances that are imposed on governmental systems.

This is all the more true when it comes to immigration incarceration, when the large majority of the people in immigration detention are not criminals, and whose only violation of societal norms is being technically undocumented.

Therefore, private companies should never be allowed to run immigration detention centers, when their interest is to profit from every individual incarcerated, and when in the interests of cutting costs, they have been proven to be very negligent in sanitation, safety, hygiene, physical and mental health, and in order to maximize their profits they cut corners.

In summary, please pass this bill and prohibit any private company from contracting with ICE to build, run, manage or otherwise be involved in immigration detention centers.

Respectfully submitted,

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