

Dear Maryland legislators,

My name is Brenda Lopez and I am a student at Northwood High School in Silver Spring, MD. 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 statutes. 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 maximum security criminals 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. Please do not be on the wrong side of history and vote to work against the dehumanizing actions of ICE.