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Testimony Concerning: HB0016/SB0478 DIGNITY NOT DETENTION ACT

March 3, 2021

Judiciary Hearing

Position: SUPPORT

Honorable Judiciary Committee Members

As you probably know, ICE has 3 Detention Centers in Maryland and have been attempting to open another. The long history of abuse in detention centers is undeniable. In addition to those already existing conditions which include inhumane treatment, inadequate medical care, and physical and sexual assaults, ICE has failed to safeguard those in detention against the current pandemic. Detainees are 13X more likely to contract COVID than the general public.

The Dignity Not Detention Act would do the following:

Ban new contracts or renewals of existing contracts with detention centers operated by private corporations (wholly or in part).

Ensure that the public has adequate information about any plans before a new private detention agreement (GSAs) takes place.

Would require local entities that have such agreements to terminate the contract by 2021.

This Act would ensure that Maryland's local governments or corporations are not profiting off the incarceration and suffering of immigrants.

Thank you. I sincerely hope you will SUPPORT this Bill.

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