



**SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL**  
1410 Bush Street, Suite F, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 16**  
**Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition**  
**(Dignity Not Detention Act)**

House Judiciary Committee

March 3, 2021

1:30 PM

Presented to: Luke Clippinger, Chairman

By: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council urges a **Favorable Report to HB 16.**

SEIU is the largest union in North America. We unite workers in health care, public service, including public education, and property services to improve lives and the services we provide. We represent over 50,000 workers in the Maryland/DC/Virginia region. Many of our members are recent immigrants and live in communities of immigrants.

Some of our local governments have grown financially dependent on agreements with the federal government through running immigrant detention centers and partners in enforcing federal immigration laws. The for-profit entities involved in what has become a human-warehousing industry must continue to fill the beds in these detention centers in order to keep their pockets filled.

There is a more humane, less expensive way for the federal government to enforce the law that would keep our state and local government out of it, while keeping families together during what is undoubtedly a traumatic experience.

We ought to encourage the federal government to pass comprehensive, common-sense immigration reform that focuses on keeping families together and get out of the human-warehousing industry.

**We ask a Favorable Report on HB 16. Thank you.**

