



TESTIMONY FOR SB0786
**Correctional Services – Private Detention Facilities – Deprivation of Rights,
Privileges, and Immunities**

Bill Sponsor: President

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0786 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill prohibits any person from depriving an individual housed in a private detention facility from any right, privilege, or immunity protected by the Constitution, the Maryland Declaration of Rights, or any federal or state law. It also requires the Attorney General to investigate any violations, issue subpoenas, interview witnesses and take depositions.

Any person who is found to violate the rights of an individual housed in the facility the Attorney General can file a civil suit if they provide 30 days advance notice and make reasonable efforts to notify the violator and give them an opportunity to correct the violation. If the violator is found guilty, they may get a penalty of up to \$25,000 and the court may grant injunctive relief to prohibit the violator from continuing to commit violations.

Given the number of people incarcerated in private detention facilities, that are not well regulated, we feel that this is a good step towards ensuring that the rights of the detainees are not abused.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.