

## **SUPPORT FOR HB630**

### **Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities – Original Design and Construction**

My name is Theresa Kraemer, and I live in Baltimore County, Maryland. I support HB630- Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction which would prohibit a person from operating an immigration detention facility at a building, structure, or facility that was not originally designed and constructed for the purpose of housing or detaining individuals.

The current system for detaining individuals who may be in the U.S. illegally is not moral or just and appears to be in violation of civil liberties. At this time, federal authorities do not have my trust in operating detention facilities in a way that I believe is humane. More important than fears and anger, I believe we must treat all humans respectfully. We must allow people to be free until proven guilty. We must support just consequences in proportion to infractions. It is not morally just to put a person in a detention center for over-staying a visa or finding meaningful work in a community after independently crossing a border. Law and order are not enemies of compassion. Human dignity and national security need not be in conflict. A healthy society requires clear processes and meaningful reform.

Additionally, using a building that was not designed to house large numbers of people put those people, the environment, and neighbors at risk for disease and pollution. It is neither ethical nor smart to refurbish a large building as a detention center unless the time and energy has been taken to research the impacts that human-use will have on a site.

I strongly request SUPPORT for HB630 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction.

Theresa M.B. Kraemer