

Environment and Transportation Committee  
HB 639 Transportation-Aviation- Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Position: Favorable

Submitted by: Cathy Stogel  
2/17/26

Dear Committee members,

Sadly in today's world we need legislation to protect people, in federal detention operations, from inhumane treatment. The goal of deportation should be to remove people who should not be here, not to subject them to cruel, degrading, and life threatening treatment. What is achieved by this violence and why should we allow it?

This act would create oversight, transparency and safety standards for detention flights. We are all aware of the hundreds of reports indicating verbal and physical abuse by personnel on ICE flights. Available reports document the deaths of 52 people during or immediately following transport while in ICE custody between 2017 and 2021 (more recent information is not available).

We have reached a point where, due to both public and investor pressure, major companies are distancing themselves from aiding or enabling ICE. If Maryland wants to continue to attract new businesses it would be good to be viewed as a state that does not support the cruel and brutal treatment of others.

Please pass a favorable report of HB 639.

Thank you so much,

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