

Testimony on Emergency House Bill 1017 — Favorable

HB1017 — Correctional Services – Private Immigration Detention Facilities – Zoning Requirement

February 9, 2026

To Honorable Chair Wells and Vice Chair Kerr and Committee Members

From Jeremy Gottwig

My name is Jeremy Gottwig of District 12A. I am a parent, a union member, a Howard County resident, and I out of respect of my immigrant friends, neighbors, and ancestors, I strongly support House Bill 1017. We have already seen proof of the human rights abuses committed behind the walls of these secret immigration camps, including abuses within 31 Hopkins Place, Baltimore City. Allowing DHS to expand their secret prison system throughout Maryland will only exacerbate these problems while opening our neighborhoods up to additional terror by the federal ICE agents we have seen terrorizing Minneapolis, Portland, Chicago, and LA.

Frankly, I don't see any reason why anyone would welcome these camps within their communities except out of allegiance to the corrupt federal regime.

Secret prisons should be unwelcome everywhere in America. They will be a long term shame on our country.

I respectfully urge passage of this emergency legislation (HB1017). Protect our neighbors and our communities. No secret prisons in Maryland.