

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
HB 1017 – Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities -
Zoning Requirement

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

February 10, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Katherine Vaughn**, and I am a resident of **Catonsville, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **HB 1017 – Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement**.

I am a concerned citizen who loves my immigrant neighbors. More than one in six Maryland residents are immigrants. Many have lived here for decades, work in the community, pay taxes, and contribute to our state in multiple ways. Maryland values its residents of all backgrounds, cultures, and experiences.

In 2025, ICE arrested more than 3,300 people in Maryland, more than twice the number arrested in 2024. Only one-third of those arrested had any criminal convictions, and just over half had no criminal charges whatsoever. If we allow ICE to build detention centers in Maryland, more innocent people will be arrested.

I support **HB 1017** because private detention centers create fear and distrust in our community making people afraid to go to work, take their children to school, and shop for basic necessities. The proposed detention facilities should not be next to schools, parks, medical offices, and residential neighborhoods.

ICE agents have repeatedly ignored the rule of law and the civil rights guaranteed to all US residents in the Constitution, including undocumented immigrants..

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB 1017**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.