

HB 1017 - FAV
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Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB 1017 Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

February 10, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Wells and Delegates,

My name is Ruth White and I live in District 13, Howard County Maryland. I am writing in support of HB 1017 Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement

I attended the hearing at the Howard County Council recently on a similar county bill, Howard County CB16-2026 and cannot begin to match the heartfelt eloquence of so many that testified that night.

A few reasons you should pass this statewide bill:

- More than one in six Maryland residents are immigrants including many in my neighborhood. Many have lived here for decades, work in the community, pay taxes, and contribute to our state in multiple ways. I value living in a community with people of all backgrounds, cultures, and experiences.
- The national immigrant system is quite broken. We should not be persecuting people who came here, who are already here for many years making a life with their families. We should not scapegoat others because we and politicians are lacking common sense solutions.
- 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.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ruth White