

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB1017 Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

February 12, 2026

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

I am writing on behalf of IndivisibleHoCoMD to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB1017** Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, IndivisibleHoCoMD has more than 1,700 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. There are 49 Indivisible groups in Maryland and over 2,500 nationwide.

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.

Allowing private detention centers in Maryland is antithetical to our state's values and demonstrated economic need for immigrants.* Any detention center sows fear and distrust in community. Private detention facilities, in particular, prioritize profit over healthy and humane treatment of detainees and are known to have worse living conditions and more violent incidents than public facilities.**

In 2025 ICE arrested over 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. With private detention facilities in our state, it is inevitable that more innocent people will be arrested.

ICE agents have repeatedly ignored the rule of law and the civil rights guaranteed to all US residents in the Constitution, including undocumented immigrants. We cannot facilitate their actions in Maryland.

IndivisibleHoCoMD urges the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB1017**.

Laurie Liskin, on behalf of IndivisibleHoCoMD
Howard County, Maryland 21042

*Comptroller of Maryland State of the Economy Series: Immigration and the Economy, April 2024

**<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/bja/181249.pdf>