

## Testimony

**HB 1017**

**Correctional Services-Private Immigration Detention Facilities-Zoning Requirement**

**Sponsor: Delegate Melissa Wells**

**Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections**

Person Submitting: Marijane Monck

Position: FAVORABLE

With over one-sixth of Marylanders being immigrants—many long-term taxpayers and vital community members—the state thrives on diversity. However, a sharp escalation in ICE activity, with over 3,300 arrests in 2025, threatens this stability. Alarming, over half of those detained faced no criminal charges. Constructing private detention centers, especially near schools and residential areas, breeds pervasive fear, deterring families from essential daily activities. Furthermore, ICE’s documented history of bypassing constitutional civil rights undermines the rule of law. To protect the safety and integration of all residents, Maryland must reject the expansion of these disruptive facilities.

I ask you to vote FAVORABLE on this bill.