

Andrew Lewis

685 Winding Stream Way, Unit 101, Odenton Maryland, 21113

District 21

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1017 - Correctional Services - Private Immigration
Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement

2/12/2026

TO: Chair Melissa Wells and Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections
Committee

FROM: Andrew Lewis

Chair Wells and Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee, my name is Andrew Lewis and I live in Odenton, Maryland. I am writing to urge you to support HB1017 that will be another step in banning private detention facilities in Maryland.

Private detention centers of ANY kind are inherently immoral. The need to confine, jail, or otherwise incarcerate legal offenders should already be held under careful scrutiny. The holding of human beings against their will is unnatural, if on bleak occasions necessary. It should be handled with care, dignity, and an eye for safety. A privately run prison will be done so with malice, disregard, and an eye only for maximizing profits.

The idea that anyone would be allowed to make a profit off of prisons is sickening. In our economic system, that turns the incarcerated from human beings into capital. It is wrong by any decent sense of morality.