

**House Bill 1017: Correctional Services – Private Immigration Detention Facilities –
Zoning Requirement
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
February 12, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Wells, Vice-Chair Kerr, and members of the Committee,

My name is Eileen Zeller. I live in Clarksville (District 9A).

I am one of the hundreds of Howard County residents who recently showed up at the Howard County Council meeting to support emergency legislation prohibiting privately-owned buildings from operating as detention centers in Howard County. I am grateful to our county elected officials for taking a forceful stance against the terror and abuses that ICE is spreading.

It is common sense that privately-owned immigration detention facilities should not be permitted unless they are expressly included in applicable zoning regulations.

ICE agents have repeatedly disregarded the rule of law and the civil rights the Constitution guarantees to everyone in the United States, including undocumented immigrants. The use of private detention centers only deepens the fear ICE is already spreading, leaving people afraid to go to work, send their children to school, or even shop for basic necessities.

I urge a favorable report for HB 1017.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eileen Zeller
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