

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 0984: Correctional Services – Private Immigration Detention Facilities – Zoning Requirement

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

April 2, 2026

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

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0984: Correctional Services – Private Immigration Detention Facilities – Zoning Requirement

Immigrants, valuable members of our community, are being rounded up and processed at detention facilities throughout the country, including in Baltimore. This practice is very likely to expand by leaps and bounds if the state is unable to stop the conversion of the warehouse near Williamsport into a processing center. We need to use all avenues to block detention facilities in Maryland. One of the ways to block detention facilities is through the use of zoning laws. We need to make it illegal for Maryland state and local governments to permit detention facilities that do not meet zoning requirements. And we need to make sure the law is enforced.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 0984**.

Thank you.

Gita Lefstein