

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name My name is Jered Ebenreck, and I am a resident of Calvert County, **Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB0984: Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement**.

I live in rural Maryland and watch with horror as farmland and hardworking people are transformed into detention camps and overseers. In Washington County, ICE is exploiting the existence of a warehouse built for the logistics of an entity like Amazon in part because of its location on the railway. Apparently, deportation on train-cars did not raise the eyes of the local commissioners or the impact on local water and sewer to have a regional detention center come into the space where commerce was supposed to occur. In fact, they seem to be abiding the detention center to curry good favor with the feds for help with their own affordable housing crisis locally—the definition of irony meeting terror. They seem to think allowing the concentration camp will guarantee them a housing grant. Hospitality is a universal human right and the guarantee of Maryland as a “free” state. We welcome the refugee—we should not pack them in warehouses off train cars in trade for our own shelter. This is false choice. Housing is a human right and so is freedom of travel to ply one’s trade.

SB0984 prohibits the State or local government from approving the use of a building or structure as an immigration detention facility by a private entity unless certain zoning authority applies/ It establishes penalties and authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action. In short, it would require the State of Maryland to enforce a ban on property being used for immigration detention that hasn’t been zoned for it, attempting to prevent local and state government from cooperating with concentration camp efforts as we’ve seen happening with the Washington County Board of County Commissioners.

We face the proverbial tension between Annapolis and local government. But this is a false duality—we are talking about incarcerating immigrants from the world over living in Maryland and other states. This is not a Maryland or Washington county issue—this is an international human rights issue. I beg of you to be on the proper side of the moral arc of history and prevent private these concentration camps from opening.

I urge you to vote in favor of **SB0984: Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement**.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jered Ebenreck, jebenreck@icloud.com