

Testimony on HB 1018/SB 985 - Favorable

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

April 1, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I, Cynthia Sokolow, of Howard County, MD offer testimony in **support of HB 1018/SB 985**.

This bill will ensure certain standards for the care and condition of people in custody in detention facilities in Maryland.

Over the past year, immigrants in the U.S. have been detained in structures without proper food, medical care and access to legal assistance. Plumbing has been insufficient. Federal lawmakers have been unlawfully denied entry to the premises.

The imposition of clear standards will force detention center operators to be accountable for the care and upkeep of their facilities. The number of costly lawsuits will be reduced. More transparency will be provided for the community.

I urge you to vote **in favor of HB 1018/SB 985**.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sokolow
21042