

**Testimony on SB 984 - Position Favorable**  
**Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities -**  
**Zoning Requirements**

**Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**March 12, 2026**

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

I, Cynthia Sokolow of Howard County, MD offer testimony **in favor of SB 984**.

Recently, a facility in Elkridge was a planned detainment center for immigrants, unbeknownst to most of the community.

One of the concerns was the lack of suitable plumbing and access to food, medical treatment and legal aid. We have learned that these kinds of holding cells treat occupants inhumanely.

SB 984 prohibits privately owned detention centers from being operated without following certain zoning laws. This bill also authorizes the Maryland Attorney General to enforce compliance.

Our immigrant neighbors deserve to live their lives peacefully, without the anxiety of knowing such a facility is nearby. Maryland should be a safe haven for all who live and work here.

**Please vote YES on SB 984.**

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sokolow  
21042