

## SB 985 Correctional Services—Immigration Detention Facilities— Minimum Mandatory Standards

Position: Favorable

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My name is Loreen Heinz. I am a resident of District 12A, and I am representing myself.

Detention centers of any kind at any level of government have the obligation (legal and moral) to confine people in humane conditions. Detainees should be kept safe from others and themselves; they should receive treatment and care commensurate to what was available to them outside of detention.

Centers should be designed with standards for health maintenance in mind. They should include space for detainees to meet with health professionals, lawyers, and family members. Keep in mind that we are talking about human beings. They should have access to space and light, food, water, beds, medical care as needed, and not caged as in the center in the Everglades. The centers themselves should not be the punishment; they should be a short-term holding center until people can be moved as decided by the courts.

Please vote in Favor or SB 985, set high mandatory standards for immigration detention facilities, and show the country that Maryland treats all people humanely.