

**Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention
Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 10, 2026
Position: Favorable**

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

I am Rosanne Hanratty, a resident of Howard County, MD. I strongly urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB0985. My support of legislation protecting Maryland's immigrant population is grounded in my faith, personal experience, and my role as citizen. **My faith calls upon me to recognize all people as children of God, entitled to dignity and care.** Consistent with the teaching of the biblical prophets, the words of Jesus, and Catholic social teaching, my faith has led to my participation in parish immigration mobilization efforts. In addition to advocacy and direct ministry to others regardless of immigration status, we, as a parish, publicly witness and pray the Rosary at the Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore, for all immigrants, migrants and those in danger of deportation, especially those detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in that building.

SB 0985 would codify common-sense guardrails on the operation of detention and holding centers and correctional facilities. Given reports of human rights abuses and disease outbreaks at the Fallon Building, where a hundred or more immigrant detainees were crammed into tight spaces with no access to clean water or sanitary facilities, and who, upon visitation by Maryland's federal legislators on March 9, 2026, had all been moved to a location that neither DHS nor ICE would disclose, there is a clear need for laws that enforce basic health and safety standards on the operation of such facilities.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. **CoreCivic and Geo Group will rake in \$1B in revenue** from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States "one of the most exciting periods," (per *Baltimore Banner*) due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is a complete lack of regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Rosanne B. Hanratty Ellicott City MD