

**SB 985 - Testimony - Favorable**

**Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -  
Minimum Mandatory Standards**

**Senate Judiciary Proceedings**

**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 985**.

SB 985 will ensure certain standards for the care, condition and custody of detention facilities in Maryland.

Over the past year, innocent immigrants in the US have been detained in structures unsuitable for more than 12 hour stays. Proper food, medical care and access to legal assistance have been withheld. Plumbing is insufficient. In too many instances, U.S. representatives 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 to you vote **in favor of SB 985**.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sokolow  
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