

**Testimony on SB0984:** Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement

**Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**March 10, 2026**

**Position: Favorable**

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

My name is **Angela Marini** and I live in **Monrovia, Maryland**. I am submitting testimony in **strong support of SB0984**.

SB0984 addresses gaps in current law that allow municipalities to approve immigration detention facilities without proper zoning. This has enabled situations where buildings not designed for human habitation, such as warehouses, have been considered for use as detention centers, despite insufficient infrastructure for safe and humane conditions.

Reports of serious health and safety issues at facilities like the Fallon Center in Baltimore, along with the lack of transparency around plans to use a Washington County warehouse for detention, highlight the need for clearer standards and local oversight. In Williamsport, for example, the warehouse in question is located in an area not zoned for overnight habitation, yet local officials have stated they cannot require federal agencies to comply with zoning laws.

SB0984 strengthens Maryland's zoning requirements for these types of facilities and provides mechanisms to ensure compliance with state law.

In addition to the concerns around infrastructure and the impact on local communities, I believe our state should strive to act with humanity and kindness in all matters that affect people's lives. While Maryland may not be able to control federal immigration policy, we *can* uphold standards that reflect our values and ensure that harmful practices are not enabled within our borders. As a Maryland resident who cares deeply about fairness and human dignity, I hope our state continues to take steps that reflect those commitments.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable report** on SB0984.

Thank you,

**Angela Marini**