

TESTIMONY FOR HB1018
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

To: Judicial Proceedings, Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members

Organization Submitting: BeTheChangeBmore

Person Submitting: Mary Jo Kirschman, Board member

Position: FAVORABLE

BeTheChangeBmore is an association of over 1500 activists. We are volunteer citizen lobbyists who have been organizing to protect democracy in Maryland since 2016.

We are all shocked at what we are seeing on a daily basis in relation to immigration enforcement in this country. It is no longer about deporting immigrants who have committed criminal acts. ICE agents are rounding up and detaining citizens as well as asylum seekers, including children, and subjecting them to horrific conditions in overcrowded office buildings and in detention centers. More and more of these centers are being planned around the country.

These conditions were videoed in Baltimore City, in the Fallon Building. We all saw the photos, and we've heard the interviews. This has to stop!

HB 1018, if enacted, would require the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to **adopt regulations establishing minimum mandatory standards** governing the care, custody, and conditions of detainees in immigration detention facilities. Some of those standards include –

- Security
- Safety
- Food services
- Housing and Sanitation
- Individual Rights
- Classification, Victim Notification, and Restitution
- Administrative Record Keeping

Under this law, anyone (including employees or visitors, such as health professionals) will be able to file a complaint regarding any violation of standards anonymously and online. There will be procedures for follow up. Depending on what is discovered, remedies will be proposed, up to and including shutting down the facility as being life-threatening.

In addition, procedures for inspecting detention centers are to be developed and if anyone interferes with the inspection, the facility can be shut down as life-threatening. If the detention center is privately owned, financial penalties up to \$10,000 per violation plus attorney's fees and other fees will be imposed.

Maryland must do everything it can to protect our residents from abuse.

BeTheChangeBmore strongly support this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.