

SB0985_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON SB#0985- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

TO: Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0985 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

This bill is introduced to declare the known deficiencies in immigrant detention centers in Maryland are inhumane, unethical, immoral and contrary to Maryland values.

My Jewish faith declares in multiple passages the truth of how this mistreatment violates moral laws. Leviticus 19:33-34 emphasizes “³³ “If a foreigner stays with you in your land, do not do him wrong. ³⁴ Rather, treat the foreigner staying with you like the native-born among you — you are to love him as yourself.” DHS and ICE are failing to uphold this commandment.

WUSA9 TV reported on Feb 7, 2026, *Former ICE Facility Worker 'saw people laying in feces' at Baltimore Detention Center*¹

Whistleblower provides internal documents alleging severe overcrowding, mistreatment months before viral video sparked national outrage

Maryland must stand up against these deprivations by requiring the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt regulations establishing certain minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities; altering certain duties of and prohibitions on the actions of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards relating to correctional facilities and immigration detention facilities; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0985.

¹ <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/investigations/ice-detention-facility-overcrowding-baltimore-whistleblower-dhs-unsanitary-trump/65-03dda8d7-49a9-4caf-b001-db5e12a04158>