

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

**Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**March 10, 2026**

**Position: Favorable**

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

My name is Rev Alexa Fraser and I am a resident of Rockville, MD. I strongly urge the committee to pass SB0984.

I attended the “hearing” about the Hagerstown detention center and I can confirm that there was no public testimony, there were dozens of residents who rejected the concept of the bill, and understood that loopholes in current Maryland law allow municipalities to approve new detention centers without the proper zoning requirements. As a result, municipalities such as Washington County have [sanctioned](#) the use of warehouses constructed to handle commodities to detain human beings, without regard to whether there is [sufficient infrastructure to safely and humanely do so](#).

My first career was in Public Health and I am confident that the wretched treatment incarcerated people will receive in this type of camp will lead to deaths and the spread of illness throughout the community.

As a minister, my faith honors the values of Justice and love which is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

The loving action is to prevent this and future concentration camps in Maryland by passing this bill.

Thank you,

Rev. Alexa Fraser