

**SB0985- FAV**

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

**Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**March 10, 2026**

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I strongly urge the committee to pass SB0985.

There is a clear need for laws that enforce basic health and safety standards on the operation of detention centers. Reports of human rights abuses and disease outbreaks at the Fallon Center in Baltimore indicate that a hundred or more immigrants are crammed into tight spaces with no access to clean water or sanitary facilities. Maryland should do everything possible to prevent such abusive practices. Legal common-sense guardrails are needed.

The CoreCivic and Geo Group, the companies that operate these facilities, have a goal to create detention centers as quickly as possible and to maximize revenue at the cost of the well-being of the human beings they are detaining.

I believe humane treatment of every person, including those who are detained, is an essential element of civil society.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Maryrose Wilson

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