



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SB 0985 – CORRECTIONAL SERVICES - IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITIES - MINIMUM MANDATORY STANDARDS

POSITION: FAVORABLE

By: Linda T. Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports SB 0985. The League contends that there must be policies and procedures in place to ensure that all components of the criminal justice system provide humane, dignified, and non-discriminatory treatment of people who have been detained. Confining people in a facility that has not been designed and/or is not operated with these principles in mind can put the health and well-being of individuals who are confined there in jeopardy.

A recently leaked [video of an ICE processing facility in Baltimore](#) demonstrates how inhumane these conditions can be – with people lying on filthy floors with emergency blankets, without access to bathrooms, and without sufficient food. Substandard nutrition and hydration, squalid conditions, overcrowding and inattention to medical care seem to be [typical of problems found in ICE detention centers](#) across the country.

SB 0985 would establish minimum mandatory standards for immigration detention facilities. The bill also seeks to improve oversight of overall conditions in part to verify adherence to these standards in immigration detention as well as correctional facilities, both public and private. These steps are critical to ensuring that detainees are treated with benevolence and respect.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland, representing nearly 2,000 citizens throughout Maryland, **strongly urges you to issue a FAVORABLE report.**