

Philippa Gasnier
7005 Southwark Terrace
Hyattsville MD 20782
(240) 475-2202
pegemail@gmail.com

Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee
Testimony on: SB 0985 - (Correctional Services - Immigration Detention
Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards)
Organization: Individual
Person Submitting: Philippa Gasnier
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 12, 2026

Dear Chairman Smith and members of the committee,

I am writing in favor of SB-0985 (Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards), which provides for establishment of regulations ensuring certain minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities.

We have seen the federal government rushing to create detention centers which results in safety, health and environmental standards so inadequate that many deaths have already occurred. Journalists and attorneys have reported that these black holes of misery have extreme overcrowding, inhumane temperatures, inadequate water and food and unsanitary facilities. Children are held in some of these facilities. Maryland has an obligation to prevent this from continuing in our State. Maryland must act to establish minimum mandatory standards of care to eliminate these concentration camp conditions.

I support SB-0985 as a critical measure and ask that you vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you,
Philippa Gasnier