

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 0985: Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

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

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0985: Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards

11 people have died in ICE custody in this country so far in 2026, 3 of them within 4 days in late February and early March. Lawmakers have visited the Baltimore ICE facility in the George Fallon Building and reported on horrible unsafe and unsanitary conditions, including lack of beds, inadequate toilets and sinks, and possible Legionella bacteria. The warehouse in Williamsport which is being converted into an ICE processing center was built as a warehouse, to stock things, not people, and doesn't even begin to have the facilities needed to house potentially 1,500 detainees. The private companies involved in renovating and operating the detention center are interested in making money, not providing safe and healthy environments. It is essential that Maryland safeguard the health, and the very lives, of people who are rounded up and placed in these detention centers. And it is essential that the laws about safety and health are enforced.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 0985**.

Thank you.