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Dear Senator Smith, Senator Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB0985 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.

This bill seeks to codify common-sense guardrails on the operation of detention centers and correctional facilities. Given reports of [human rights abuses](#) and [disease outbreaks](#) at the Fallon Center in Baltimore, where a hundred or more immigrants are crammed into tight spaces with no access to clean water or sanitary facilities, there is a clear need for laws that enforce basic health and safety standards on the operation of these facilities.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

I believe Maryland has a responsibility to protect its immigrant residents from the unjust treatment immigrant Americans are currently facing from the federal government. Creating guardrails to guarantee the health and safety of all human beings is one facet of that responsibility.

Sincerely,  
Laura Walsh