

March 10, 2026  
Julie Simon  
Towson, Maryland, 21286

**TESTIMONY ON SB0985 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

**TO:** Chair Will Smith, Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Julie Simon

**My name is Julie Simon. I am a resident of District 43B. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0985, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.**

For the last several years I have been the team lead for the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Welcome Circle. During that time we have lived our Jewish and civic values, welcoming two Afghan families to Baltimore County and getting to know others from the over 35 Afghan families that live in Cockeysville.

In recent months, the Trump administration has launched a racist, xenophobic and deadly campaign against immigrants across the United States, including attacking parents and families at schools and at work, deploying military equipment to terrorize communities, housing people in inadequate facilities, racially profiling U.S. citizens and shooting people. It is against this backdrop that I am writing to express my support for a favorable report on SB0985, which will establish minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities.

There have been ongoing reports – and documentation of – human rights abuses at the Fallon Center immigration detention facility, including overcrowding, disease outbreaks, and inadequate food and medical care. Maryland has an obligation to protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. As Jews, we have a long history of persecution and know the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of immigration status. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0985.**