

Testimony on Senate Bill—Favorable

SB984 Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 12, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

I, Lia Nigro, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **SB984- Correctional Services – Private Immigration Detention Facilities – Zoning Requirement**

This bill recognizes that a detention facility raises special concerns. Standard zoning such as for commercial or industrial operations is not sufficient.

Depending on scale, a detention center is likely to be a heavy draw on the local power grid, sewage system, water supply, emergency services, and other community infrastructure. It will increase traffic and noise levels. Its security systems and placement are likely to impact normal resident life.

In-depth review that is specific to the needs of such a facility and that involves inspectors expert on detention centers specifically is necessary. Residents also need to be fully informed and have opportunity to have their concerns addressed.

Given current events with the purchase and planned speedy repurposing of properties not designed or zoned for detention, it is appropriate that this bill become active as emergency legislation as soon as possible.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB984.