

Testimony on Senate Bill SB985
Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory
Standards
Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 12, 2026

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

My name is Anne Lafferty, and I am a resident of Silver Spring in Montgomery County, MD. I am writing in support of SB985, Correctional Services – Private Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards.

While ideally we should be able to trust the federal government to set reasonable standards for the treatment of detained immigrants in both government- and privately-run facilities, it has been widely reported that some such facilities do not provide adequate, wholesome food and water or reasonable health care. While the state may not have authority over the federal government directly, the relevant agency, ICE, routinely outsources the running of immigrant detention facilities to private companies. The state should regulate these privately-run facilities, so that immigrant detainees can live in reasonably healthy conditions.