

Oppose SB 985/HB 1018 – Correctional Services - Correctional Facilities and Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing as a concerned resident of Maryland to strongly oppose **SB 985/HB 1018**.

Immigration detention and enforcement are exclusively federal responsibilities under the U.S. Constitution and federal law. The Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) already operate under comprehensive federal standards, oversight, and inspection requirements for civil immigration detainees. **Maryland's attempt to layer additional state-level mandates creates unnecessary duplication, potential public safety threats, and increased costs for taxpayers.**

My main concerns with this bill include:

- **Federal preemption:** State regulation of federal immigration detention facilities risks interfering with national immigration policy and enforcement priorities, creating threats to public safety.
- **Added costs and bureaucracy:** Imposing new mandatory standards, inspections, reporting, and enforcement on facilities in Maryland will raise operational expenses that ultimately burden state and local taxpayers without improving public safety.
- **Political motivation over practicality:** This bill appears designed more to hinder or discourage immigration detention in Maryland than to address genuine gaps in care. Federal facilities and contractors must already meet rigorous national standards for health, safety, food service, sanitation, and detainee rights.

Maryland should focus on its core responsibilities — public safety, education, and fiscal responsibility — rather than inserting itself into federal immigration matters through burdensome regulations that could undermine enforcement of federal law, creating threats to public safety.

I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 1018** and vote against its passage.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns with this important public safety legislation.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals