

Testimony on SB0985:

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

My name is Lydia LaGue and I am a resident of Frederick, MD, 21701. I am President of Frederick AARP Chapter #636, a member of Indivisible Frederick Coalition, and on the Democracy team for Third Act Maryland.

I strongly support SB0985. 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 a **travesty with respect to humane treatment of detained or incarcerated human beings**. Maryland simply cannot allow this!

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. **For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.**

Thank you,

Lydia Goble LaGue
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