

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB0984 – Correctional Services – Private Immigration Detention Facilities –
Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,
My name is Marian Marbury and I am a resident of Baltimore MD. I strongly urge the committee to pass 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.

Please consider what we have found out about the warehouse that ICE bought in Williamsport, MD. It has four toilets and two water fountains, and is allotted 800 gallons of water a day. Housing 1500 detainees will require a minimum of over 200,000 gallons a day and the current infrastructure is completely inadequate. Even if that much water can be found, the pipes aren't large enough to permit that increased waterflow. We already have seen that the ICE modus operandi is to act first and plan later.

My concern is reinforced by the statements made by CoreCivic and Geo Group, companies that will rake in \$1 billion in revenue. Do they express commitment to make sure that as we enter a period of mass detention in the US they are committed to the highest standards of care possible. Of course not. They consider this “one of the most exciting periods” because they are going to make so much money. And how do they make the most money? By cutting every corner possible. In the absence of standards that will force them to give more than lip service to health and safety, we can be sure that the centers will be constructed as cheaply and quickly as possible.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. It is very likely that ultimately not only Maryland residents but Maryland citizens will end up in these centers, and it is your job to protect all of us. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Marian Marbury

