



**Testimony on SB985-FAVORABLE**

**SB985 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory**

**Judicial Proceedings Committee  
March 12, 2026**

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

I am writing on behalf of IndivisibleHoCoMD to offer favorable testimony in support of SB985 -Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, IndivisibleHoCoMD has more than 1,800 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. There are 49 Indivisible groups in Maryland and over 2,500 nationwide.

SB985 requires the adoption of minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities. This regulation is sorely needed.

There is abundant evidence that conditions in ICE-run detention centers are deplorable, unhealthy, and inhumane. A recent report and video from a former employee in the Baltimore detention center clearly documents poor sanitation and massive overcrowding with detainees sleeping on concrete floors. Similar conditions were found in an ICE detention center in Fort Snelling, Minnesota. A recent congressional delegation described the conditions there as “akin to a third world prison.”

Conditions in private detention facilities are often worse than in public facilities since private facilities prioritize profit over decent conditions for detainees. (<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/bja/181249.pdf>)

Maryland cannot allow this kind of mistreatment of anyone in our state. Immigrants are no less deserving of decent conditions than people born in the United States.

Maryland has a choice. We can implement laws to protect the health, safety, and dignity of all people or we can turn our backs and ignore human right abuses and overt cruelty in our own backyard.

IndivisibleHoCoMD urges the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB985**.

Laurie Liskin, on behalf of IndivisibleHoCoMD  
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