

**Testimony on Senate Bill 0984**  
**Correctional Services-Private Immigration Detention Facilities-Zoning Requirement**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Position Favorable**  
**Hearing date: March 12, 2026**

Dear Senator Smith and Members of the Committee,  
My name is Deborah Shulman, and I am a 32-year resident of Olney, MD. **I am writing to urge you to issue a Favorable Report on SB0984**

Washington County is currently allowing ICE to convert a warehouse into an immigration detention facility in an area that is not zoned or permitted for such a structure.

This bill would seek to address this error by:

- \*Prohibiting state or local governments from approving the use of a building or structure as an immigration detention facility operated by a private entity unless certain zoning authority applies.
- \*Including a retroactive clause and civil penalty of up to \$10,000 a day.
- \*Authorizing the Attorney General to bring civil action for enforcement.

These safeguards are critical for human rights. The federal government has deliberately allowed conditions in detention facilities to become inhumane and degrading. This is a cruel strategy used to make the living conditions so miserable and unsafe that people chose self-deportation.

This is personal to me because I am Jewish and see too many similarities to concentration camps. People are dying in ICE custody. People have zero rights in ICE detention. We must protect human dignity, our public resources and our states values

Additionally, Williamsport facility doesn't have adequate water or sewage capacity. This could affect anyone residing in the same area.

Maryland must not be complicit in the evil occurring in ICE Detention facilities. If buildings aren't zoned for these facilities and the resources in the area for water and sewage aren't adequate it will affect not only the health of

the detainees but those who work in the detention center and those who live in the area and depend on public water and sewer.

SB0984 is a responsible and necessary step to ensure humane treatment and a safe environment  
Zoning laws must be followed

I do not believe nonviolent immigrants should be held in these facilities. They are inhumane, unsafe and unnecessary. They do not save us money. They do not reduce crime. Our state should not allow these facilities and this cruelty to happen in our state. Resources are being diverted from programs our citizens need to pay for Homeland Security and ICE actions.

Please vote Favorable on SB 0984 and allow this bill to move to the full Senate for consideration. All people deserve the same rights and safeguards.  
Thank you for your time and service.

Deborah Shulman  
Olney, MD