

SB 984 - FAV-ARubin
Dr. Anna Rubin
6268 Cobbler Ct.
Columbia MD 21045
March 12, 2026

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

SB 984 Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 12, 2026

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

My name is Dr. Anna Rubin and I live in District 13, Howard County Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 984**.

I am a retired educator and civic activist. Aslo, I am the chair of Columbia Jewish Congregation's Social Justice Committee. We have been strong supporters of immigrants, their needs, their rights because we know what it is to be persecuted, to be desperately poor and be forced to leave our homes. No one leaves their country of origin for a frivolous reason.

The Torah commands us in 32 different places to care for the stranger. I am impelled by my faith to act to safeguard our neighbors from the depredations of an out-of-control agency, trying to create concentration camps around the country.

SB 984 prohibits the state or a unit of local government from approving the use of a building or structure as an immigration detention facility by a private entity unless certain zoning authority applies; it establishes a certain penalty for a certain violation; and authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action to enforce the Act. ICE is trying to position facilities in a variety of locations which were not zoned for detention centers, some of which are close to residential and educational facilities. From all accounts, these buildings are basic warehouses which don't have sufficient sleeping quarters, bathing, medical and electrical infrastructure to handle the large numbers of people expected to be housed there. Their utility needs may certainly outstrip what the area can handle.

In the interest of humane treatment of all people, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on HB984.

Thank you for your time and consideration.