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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0984- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement

TO: Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0984, **Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement**

The American Immigration Council has reported "...how the ICE detention system has grown larger, more abusive, and more opaque than ever as the Trump administration rushes to detain ever-greater numbers of immigrants as part of its mass deportation push."¹

Much of the actions being taken are done without involvement or consultation with affected local communities and state and local political jurisdictions.

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball ... announced that the County director of the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits (DILP) revoked the building permit for a privately-owned detention facility located in Elkridge. The permit revocation was based on state law which requires private immigration detention centers to meet certain notice and public hearing requirements.

This bill will require a policy for Maryland that will prohibit 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; establishing a certain penalty for a certain violation; and authorizing the Attorney General to bring a civil action to enforce the Act. It empowers the Attorney General to defend Maryland ethical and moral values for our residents regardless of immigration status.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0984.

¹ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/ice-expanding-detention-system/>