

SB985 - Detention Center Safety.pdf

Uploaded by: Aaron Klaus

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Aaron Klaus, and I am a resident of Laurel, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Aaron Klaus

Fraser SB985 - Favorable Detention Center Safety .

Uploaded by: Alexandra Fraser

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Rev. Alexa Fraser and I am a resident of Rockville, 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.

My first career was in Public Health and I am confident that the wretched treatment incarcerated people will receive in this type of camp will lead to deaths and the spread of illness throughout the community.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Rev. Alexa Fraser

SB0985_Favorable_AmyLaGrange.pdf

Uploaded by: AMY LAGRANGE

Position: FAV

Amy LaGrange
Calvert County, MD 20678
Monday, March 10, 2026

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am a resident of Calvert County, MD and District 5 I am submitting testimony as a member of Sanctuary Maryland. I am testifying in **support** of **SB0985: Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Manitory Standards.**

Requiring the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt regulations establishing certain minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities; altering certain duties of and prohibitions on the actions of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards relating to correctional facilities and immigration detention facilities; etc. Hearing recording. In short, it would require the State of Maryland to enforce minimum health, safety, and other conditions for immigration detention, even that of the Federal Government regardless of the Supremacy Clause. Maryland should ensure safety and legal rights for all its residents!

SB0985 would establish a baseline from which to evaluate the standards for which a private concentration camp can subject detainees. In the long run, this bill protects people, citizens and non-citizens, from mass incarceration facilities run by private entities. These facilities do not have a good track record of humane treatment of the incarcerated, nor do they seem to ensure due process or just outcomes while subjecting people to these harsh conditions. We must not allow sub-humane conditions. It would be best to not allow these huge prisons, larger than most federal prisons, to be opened at all.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to **support SB0985: Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Manitory Standards.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Amy LaGrange
Calvert County, MD 20678

Testimony SB984 Angela Marini March 10.pdf

Uploaded by: Angela Marini

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0984: Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Angela Marini** and I live in **Monrovia, Maryland**. I am submitting testimony in **strong support of SB0984**.

SB0984 addresses gaps in current law that allow municipalities to approve immigration detention facilities without proper zoning. This has enabled situations where buildings not designed for human habitation, such as warehouses, have been considered for use as detention centers, despite insufficient infrastructure for safe and humane conditions.

Reports of serious health and safety issues at facilities like the Fallon Center in Baltimore, along with the lack of transparency around plans to use a Washington County warehouse for detention, highlight the need for clearer standards and local oversight. In Williamsport, for example, the warehouse in question is located in an area not zoned for overnight habitation, yet local officials have stated they cannot require federal agencies to comply with zoning laws.

SB0984 strengthens Maryland's zoning requirements for these types of facilities and provides mechanisms to ensure compliance with state law.

In addition to the concerns around infrastructure and the impact on local communities, I believe our state should strive to act with humanity and kindness in all matters that affect people's lives. While Maryland may not be able to control federal immigration policy, we *can* uphold standards that reflect our values and ensure that harmful practices are not enabled within our borders. As a Maryland resident who cares deeply about fairness and human dignity, I hope our state continues to take steps that reflect those commitments.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable report** on SB0984.

Thank you,

Angela Marini

SB985 - Detention Center Safety.docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: angela whalen

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Angela Whalen and I am a resident of Catonsville, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Angela Whalen

SB.985.Lafferty.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Lafferty

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill SB985
Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory
Standards
Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 12, 2026

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

My name is Anne Lafferty, and I am a resident of Silver Spring in Montgomery County, MD. I am writing in support of SB985, Correctional Services – Private Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards.

While ideally we should be able to trust the federal government to set reasonable standards for the treatment of detained immigrants in both government- and privately-run facilities, it has been widely reported that some such facilities do not provide adequate, wholesome food and water or reasonable health care. While the state may not have authority over the federal government directly, the relevant agency, ICE, routinely outsources the running of immigrant detention facilities to private companies. The state should regulate these privately-run facilities, so that immigrant detainees can live in reasonably healthy conditions.

CarolStern_SB985_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: CAROL STERN

Position: FAV

March 12, 2026

Carol Stern
4550 North Park Avenue Apt. T106
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

**Testimony in Support of SB985- Favorable
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**

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

FROM: Carol Stern

I am testifying in favor of SB985 as a resident of Montgomery County's District 16 and a member of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda.

My sacred text and tradition teach us to welcome the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Leviticus 19:34 explicitly instructs us to treat immigrants in our land the same as native citizens. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan wrote "teach us to respect the integrity of every human soul be it that of a friend or stranger, child or adult." When we are working to reform our immigration justice system, we must demand that it operates in accordance with these deeply held Jewish beliefs.

ICE detention centers have a well-documented history of severe, systemic abuses, including inadequate medical care, physical and sexual abuse, and the widespread use of solitary confinement. These facilities have been described as "barbaric," with reports of moldy or worm-infested food, lack of clean drinking water, continuous lighting that causes sleep deprivation, and extreme temperatures. This bill will help prevent ICE from running a deportation facility in Maryland. We want to ensure that none of Maryland's resources are used to help the federal deportation agenda.

All Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, are entitled to equal protection under the law and deserve to be treated with human dignity. In the face of unprecedented attacks, our immigrant communities in Maryland along with CASA and other nonprofits are doing everything they can to protect families and to advocate for their communities. Maryland has the power to stop enabling Trump's cruel mass deportations and be a firewall against authoritarianism. This moment calls for action on the part of the State Legislature. To protect justice and public safety for all Marylanders, please pass SB985 so that Maryland can do everything possible to prevent any ICE detention centers from being built here.

I respectfully urge a favorable report for SB985.

SB985 - Wellman.pdf

Uploaded by: Caroline Wellman

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is **Caroline Wellman** and I am a resident of **Halethorpe**, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

I strongly object to the building of these warehouses because I believe that we need to follow all the proper laws of Maryland and international law ensuring human rights and dignity for all within our state.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Caroline Wellman

SB0985_Correctional_Services_Immigration_Detention

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0985
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0985 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

We are all horrified at what we are seeing on a daily basis in relation to immigration enforcement in this country. It is no longer about deporting immigrants who have committed criminal acts. It has morphed into the rounding up and detaining of virtually anyone the ICE agents decide they don't like, regardless of citizenship or criminality.

While we are horrified at what we are seeing, we are not seeing everything that is happening. Behind the walls of detention centers, horrific conditions are the norm and crimes are committed against many of the people who are detained. People have died from neglect and also from abuse. This is only the beginning, though. What the government wants to do is detain tens of thousands of people in small cramped spaces with little access to the basic necessities of life.

This bill, if enacted, would try to set guardrails around what can happen in detention facilities. It requires the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt regulations establishing minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of detainees in immigration detention facilities. Some of those standards include –

- Security
- Safety
- Food services
- Housing and Sanitation
- Individual Rights
- Classification, Victim Notification, and Restitution
- Administrative Record Keeping

It allows for anyone (including employees or visitors, such as health professionals) to file a complaint regarding any violation of standards anonymously and online, and sets procedures for follow up. Depending on what is discovered, remedies will be proposed, up to and including shutting down the facility as being life-threatening.

In addition, procedures for inspecting detention centers are to be developed and if anyone interferes with the inspection, the facility can be shut down as life-threatening. If the detention center is privately owned, financial penalties up to \$10,000 per violation plus attorney's fees and other fees will be imposed.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Favorable Testimony on SB0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Christina Yuan

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Christina M. Yuan, MD and I am a resident of Laurel, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly and as cheaply as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, they will have little regard as to whether detainees are treated with decency.

In addition, these corporations care little about protecting the health, safety, and resources of the surrounding community. These detention facilities put pressure on local resources (water, sewage, health care) and may drive up community costs, while treating both detainees and local citizens as “pallets of goods”.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Christina M. Yuan, MD

Laurel, MD

LWVMD_03.12.2026_SB0985_Testimony in support of Co

Uploaded by: Cynthia Boddie-Willis

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SB 0985 – CORRECTIONAL SERVICES - IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITIES - MINIMUM MANDATORY STANDARDS

POSITION: FAVORABLE

By: Linda T. Kohn, President

Date: March 12, 2026

The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports SB 0985. The League contends that there must be policies and procedures in place to ensure that all components of the criminal justice system provide humane, dignified, and non-discriminatory treatment of people who have been detained. Confining people in a facility that has not been designed and/or is not operated with these principles in mind can put the health and well-being of individuals who are confined there in jeopardy.

A recently leaked [video of an ICE processing facility in Baltimore](#) demonstrates how inhumane these conditions can be – with people lying on filthy floors with emergency blankets, without access to bathrooms, and without sufficient food. Substandard nutrition and hydration, squalid conditions, overcrowding and inattention to medical care seem to be [typical of problems found in ICE detention centers](#) across the country.

SB 0985 would establish minimum mandatory standards for immigration detention facilities. The bill also seeks to improve oversight of overall conditions in part to verify adherence to these standards in immigration detention as well as correctional facilities, both public and private. These steps are critical to ensuring that detainees are treated with benevolence and respect.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland, representing nearly 2,000 citizens throughout Maryland, **strongly urges you to issue a FAVORABLE report.**

Test 985 Det. standards PDF.pdf

Uploaded by: Cynthia Sokolow

Position: FAV

SB 985 - Testimony - Favorable

**Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards**

Senate Judiciary Proceedings

March 12, 2026

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

I, Cynthia Sokolow of Howard County, MD offer testimony **in favor of SB 985**.

SB 985 will ensure certain standards for the care, condition and custody of detention facilities in Maryland.

Over the past year, innocent immigrants in the US have been detained in structures unsuitable for more than 12 hour stays. Proper food, medical care and access to legal assistance have been withheld. Plumbing is insufficient. In too many instances, U.S. representatives have been unlawfully denied entry to the premises.

The imposition of clear standards will force detention center operators to be accountable for the care and upkeep of their facilities. The number of costly lawsuits will be reduced. More transparency will be provided for the community,

I urge to you vote **in favor of SB 985**.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sokolow
21042

SB0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Debbie Shulman

Position: FAV

Position: Favorable (support)
Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Hearing Date: March 12, 2016

Dear Chair Smith and members of this committee,
My name is Deborah Shulman, and I am a 32-year resident of Olney, MD. I am asking you to support SB0985 and give a Favorable report.

Right now, Washington County is allowing ICE to convert a warehouse to a Detention Facility

If we can't stop this process, we should have minimum standards for such facilities

This bill sets minimum standards for safety

It ensures much needed accountability
It empowers State oversight
It provides an Enforcement mechanism
It protects Local Resources

Our federal government is making these facilities deplorable for a reason
They want to force people to self deport and this is one means of doing so

Before this is allowed to happen here, we must have safeguards in place

Honestly, I do not believe they should be detaining people who aren't violent criminals
The money being spent on this while our government is not doing what people really need is awful. This has nothing to do with crime or public safety

Please vote favorably for Human Rights, Accountability and allow this bill to go to the full Senate for a vote

Sincerely,
Deborah Shulman
Olney, MD

SB985 Favorable 2026.pdf

Uploaded by: Debi Jasen

Position: FAV

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill 985
Favorable

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 985 a favorable report. If the state can't prevent internment camps from operating in Maryland, then we should at least prevent them from becoming death camps.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD

SB985 FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Donna Hoffmeister

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB985/Favorable
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards
Judicial Proceedings
Hearing Date: March 12, 2026

Recent immigration enforcement has expanded far beyond deporting individuals who have committed serious crimes. Increasingly, people are being detained regardless of citizenship status or criminal record. Conditions inside immigration detention facilities are often hidden from public view, where reports of neglect, abuse, and even deaths have raised serious concerns.

SB985 establishes basic safeguards to ensure that individuals held in immigration detention facilities in Maryland are treated humanely. The bill requires the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt enforceable regulations governing detention conditions, including standards for:

- Security and safety
- Food services
- Housing and sanitation
- Protection of individual rights
- Classification procedures and administrative recordkeeping

The bill also creates a transparent complaint process, allowing employees, detainees, visitors, and health professionals to file complaints anonymously online. Violations must be investigated and corrective action taken, including closure of facilities that pose life-threatening risks.

In addition, SB985 establishes inspection procedures for detention facilities. Interference with inspections can result in a facility being shut down, and privately operated centers may face financial penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation plus legal costs.

By establishing clear standards, accountability, and oversight, SB984 ensures that detention facilities operating in Maryland meet basic requirements for safety, health, and human dignity. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give SB984 a favorable report.

Donna Hoffmeister
Greenbelt, MD

SB985 - Detention Center Safety, Emily Blank_fav.d

Uploaded by: Emily Blank

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Emily C. Blank. I am a resident of Brentwood, MD and a retired economist. 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

No one deserves the treatment inflicted on immigrants in such camps. Further, such treatment discourages immigration. Immigrant students and scientists are often the best and the brightest from their countries; most immigrants make positive contributions to the labor force, particularly in such occupations as health and personal care services.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

[]

SB0985_Edwards_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Farnaz Edwards

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0985

Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee | March 12, 2026

To Chair Smith and the Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I write in strong support of SB0985, which would require the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt regulations establishing minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees held in immigration detention facilities in Maryland.

People held in immigration detention are civil detainees, not convicted criminals. They are awaiting administrative proceedings, not serving criminal sentences. Despite this, they are frequently held in conditions indistinguishable from — or worse than — criminal incarceration. Maryland has an obligation to ensure that anyone detained within its borders is treated with basic human dignity.

The absence of enforceable minimum standards creates dangerous gaps in oversight. Without baseline requirements for healthcare, sanitation, nutrition, access to counsel, and humane treatment, detainees are left vulnerable to abuse and neglect. This bill closes that gap by directing the Secretary to establish clear, binding regulations.

By tasking the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards with expanded duties over immigration detention facilities, this bill ensures that inspections and accountability are not left to the discretion of private operators or federal contractors. Independent state oversight is essential.

Several states have enacted detainee protection standards in recent years. Maryland has an opportunity — and a moral responsibility — to join them. SB0985 is a direct, practical step toward ensuring that our state's values are reflected in the conditions under which people are held on Maryland soil. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Farnaz Edwards

18680 Queen Elizabeth Dr.

Brookeville, MD 20833

District 14

Testimony on Senate Bill 0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Gita Lefstein

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 0985: Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

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

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0985: Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards

11 people have died in ICE custody in this country so far in 2026, 3 of them within 4 days in late February and early March. Lawmakers have visited the Baltimore ICE facility in the George Fallon Building and reported on horrible unsafe and unsanitary conditions, including lack of beds, inadequate toilets and sinks, and possible Legionella bacteria. The warehouse in Williamsport which is being converted into an ICE processing center was built as a warehouse, to stock things, not people, and doesn't even begin to have the facilities needed to house potentially 1,500 detainees. The private companies involved in renovating and operating the detention center are interested in making money, not providing safe and healthy environments. It is essential that Maryland safeguard the health, and the very lives, of people who are rounded up and placed in these detention centers. And it is essential that the laws about safety and health are enforced.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 0985**.

Thank you.

SB0985 - G. Lovelace.pdf

Uploaded by: Glenn Lovelace

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is GLenn Lovelace and I am a resident of **Relay**, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

[Fill in here: Share a short statement about why you personally care about this issue. You may include personal experiences, family history, professional experience, or values that motivate your support.]

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Glenn Lovelace

Testimony on SB0985.pdf

Uploaded by: GLENN PERRYMAN

Position: FAV

**Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Glenn Perryman and I am a resident of St Mary's County, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

[Fill in here: Share a short statement about why you personally care about this issue. You may include personal experiences, family history, professional experience, or values that motivate your support.]

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Glenn Perryman

Hollywood, MD

SB985 - Detention Center Safety.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Helena Brew

Position: FAV

**Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Helena Brew 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Helena Brew

SB985 - Detention Center Safety.pdf

Uploaded by: Holly Kinnamont

Position: FAV

**Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Holly Kinnamont and I am a resident of Frederick, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Holly Kinnamont

SB0985 - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimu

Uploaded by: Holly Powell

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. I am a resident of **District 46**. **I am testifying in support of SB0985 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The bill SB0985 would require Maryland to:

- establish mandatory minimum standards for conditions in immigration detention facilities;
- expand oversight and reporting authority to include inspections, public complaints, and staff reporting obligations;
- enforce compliance through annual facility certifications, with potential closure for life-threatening deficiencies.

All human beings have fundamental rights and dignities that must be respected. In Maryland, we have a system of minimum standards for correctional facilities, which are enforced by a commission that reports to the Governor and the General Assembly. Unfortunately, in detention facilities run by private companies, the requirement to respect the rights of the incarcerated is in direct conflict with the profit motives of those running these facilities. This is especially likely to be true when private companies are allowed to convert warehouses or other buildings not intended to house human beings into detention centers. In 2025, conditions in immigration detention facilities specifically declined, with “worsening and substandard medical care, growing complaints of abusive conditions, and documented extensive violations of detention standards.”¹ These declines are driven by the ongoing, mass arrests of immigrants by the federal government, and seem unlikely to resolve without outside pressure forcing facilities to comply with basic standards.

By introducing minimum standards for these facilities and increasing reporting requirements, state officials can help prevent these abuses. By also instituting penalties for failure to meet these requirements, state officials can compel compliance with the standards. SB0985 would improve conditions in private immigrant detention facilities by subjecting them to the same standards and scrutiny as our state-run correctional facilities.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB0985.

Sincerely,

Holly Powell

2308 Cambridge Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

¹ Reichlin, Aaron. “New Report Details ICE’s Expanding and Increasingly Unaccountable Detention System.” American Immigration Council, 23 January 2026, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/ice-expanding-detention-system/>. Accessed 9 February 2026.

Testimony on SB0985 JJ.pdf

Uploaded by: Janet Perryman

Position: FAV

**Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Janet Perryman and I am a resident of St Mary's County, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

[Fill in here: Share a short statement about why you personally care about this issue. You may include personal experiences, family history, professional experience, or values that motivate your support.]

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Janet Perryman

Hollywood, MD

Montgomery SB 985 FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Jean Montgomery

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB 985 – Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities –
Minimum Mandatory Standards
Judicial Proceedings Hearing
March 12, 2026**

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

I am writing to urge you to issue a **favorable report on SB 985**. Washington County is allowing ICE to convert a warehouse into a detention facility. If the State of Maryland is unable to stop this process, then we must establish clear, enforceable standards for such a facility.

SB 985 provides those critical protections. This bill:

- Establishes minimum safety and living standards.
- Ensures accountability and transparency.
- Empowers meaningful state oversight.
- Creates an enforcement mechanism.
- And protects local and state resources.

These safeguards are long overdue. The federal government has deliberately allowed conditions in detention facilities to become inhumane and degrading. This is not accidental—it is a strategy meant to pressure people into self-deportation by making it unbearable. Maryland must not be complicit in this approach. Before a detention facility operates in our communities, we must require strong safeguards that protect human dignity, public resources, and our state values. **SB 985** is a responsible and necessary step to ensure that Maryland upholds its values, protects vulnerable people, and asserts appropriate state oversight.

This issue is personal to me because a close loved one was wrongfully held as a prisoner of war in a reeducation camp. Holding pro-democracy beliefs and Catholic faith, he sought and was granted asylum in the United States. With that personal connection in mind, I feel strongly that we should not have roving patrols kidnapping and secreting community members, disregarding due process and the Constitutional Rights afforded to all *persons*, and concentrating them into camps on the basis of racial profiling, languages spoken, or quotas issued.

I also want to be clear that I do not believe individuals who are not violent criminals should be detained at all. The enormous amount of money being spent on immigration detention does not improve public safety and diverts resources away from what Marylanders actually need.

I urge you to **vote favorable on SB 985** and allow this bill to move forward to the full Senate

Thank you for your time and for your service. Sincerely,

Jean Montgomery, District 14 voter.

SB985_FAV_EconAction.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Bevan-Dangel

Position: FAV



**SB985– Correctional Services and Immigration Detention Facilities –
Minimum Mandatory Standards**

Position: FAVORABLE

March 12th, 2026

The Honorable Will Smith, Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee

Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

Economic Action Maryland Fund urges a favorable report on SB985, which requires that immigration detention centers in Maryland abide by the longstanding minimum standards correctional facilities are held to within the State. This common sense bill provides vital guardrails to the growing presence of ICE and its corresponding detention centers within our State.

Through our tenant and older adult direct service programs, Economic Action Maryland Fund serves immigrant clients and communities.

It is important to our organization that the rights of these immigrants are respected in and out of detention. A framework for safe and responsible conditions of correctional institutions already exists within our State. SB985 ensures that these trusted expectations can be applied to immigrant detention centers which are functioning in the same manner as jails and prisons.

SB958 is a fair and reasonable bill which gives voice to Maryland's deeply held values of ethics, fairness, safety, and due process in correctional facilities. Economic Action Maryland believes that everyone in our State is entitled to a standard of sanitation, safety, and care in their living situation.

In detaining immigrants within our State, detention centers are assuming the responsibility of upholding these rights. Maryland must enforce these minimum mandatory standards for its detained individuals. We stand strongly in support of SB958 and urge a favorable report in the name of equality.

Sincerely,

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD 21218 | www.econaction.org
Marceline White · Marceline@EconAction.org | Jennifer Bevan-Dangel · Jennifer@EconAction.org



Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Deputy Director

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD 21218 | www.econaction.org
Marceline White · Marceline@EconAction.org | Jennifer Bevan-Dangel · Jennifer@EconAction.org

FAVORABLE SB0985_JeredEbenreck.pdf

Uploaded by: Jered Ebenreck

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name My name is Jered Ebenreck, and I am a resident of Calvert County, **Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**.

I live in rural Maryland and watch with horror as farmland and hardworking people are transformed into detention camps and overseers. In Washington County, ICE is exploiting the existence of a warehouse built for the logistics of an entity like Amazon in part because of its location on the railway. Apparently, deportation on train-cars did not raise the eyes of the local commissioners or the impact on local water and sewer to have a regional detention center come into the space where commerce was supposed to occur. In fact, they seem to be abiding the detention center to curry good favor with the feds for help with their own affordable housing crisis locally—the definition of irony meeting terror. They seem to think allowing the concentration camp will guarantee them a housing grant. Hospitality is a universal human right and the guarantee of Maryland as a “free” state. We welcome the refugee—we should not pack them in warehouses off train cars in trade for our own shelter. This is false choice. Housing is a human right and so is freedom of travel to ply one’s trade.

SB0985 establishes regulations for certain minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities. The bill seeks to require the State of Maryland to enforce minimum health, safety, and other conditions for immigration detention, even facilities run by the Federal Government regardless of the Supremacy Clause. The mechanical fact of state power in a federal system gives Maryland a chance to demonstrate the human decency and dignity that ICE and DHS currently deny. Maryland should not allow any facility to house those DHS captures from their homes and work, let alone facilities that lack the sanitation, plumbing, and dignity all humans deserve as a birthright.

We face the proverbial tension between Annapolis and local government. But this is a false duality—we are talking about incarcerating immigrants from the world over living in Maryland and other states. This is not a Maryland or Washington county issue—this is an international human rights issue. I beg of you to be on the proper side of the moral arc of history and prevent private these concentration camps from opening.

I urge you to vote in favor of **SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jered Ebenreck, jebenreck@icloud.com

CAN Testimony in support of SB985 - Minimum Standa

Uploaded by: Jerry Kickenson

Position: FAV



faith. love. liberation.
fe. amor. Liberación.

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 985

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

To: Hon. William Smith, Jr., chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Jerry Kickenson, Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network

Date: March 10, 2026

We are writing in **support of Senate Bill 985, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**, on behalf of the Congregation Action Network (CAN). The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With congregations and members throughout the capital area, including congregations with hundreds of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

We wish to thank Chairman Smith for sponsoring Senate Bill 985.

As people of faith committed to justice and compassion for immigrants, we adhere to the sacred texts of most major faiths that call for welcoming the stranger and treating each other with love, dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be treated fairly and have the same protections as all Maryland residents.

SB985 will specify minimum standards for the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities. This is the least the state of Maryland can do, especially given the horrendous conditions reported in civil immigration detention facilities nationwide, including those reported in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office in Baltimore.

Immigrant communities in Maryland are scared, and with good reason. Our member congregations are either directly or indirectly impacted by the current civil immigration enforcement onslaught. While we believe that individuals charged with non-violent civil immigration offenses should not be detained at all, those that are must be treated with the care and dignity all of us deserve simply because we are human beings.

The Congregation Action Network respectfully urges you to reach a **favorable** report for SB985, that will simply impose minimum standards of care that all of us have the right to.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry Kickenson

Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network

Silver Spring, MD

SB985 - Detention Center Safety - jlb.pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Baker

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is **Jessica Baker** and I am a resident of Parkville, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

I support human dignity no matter where you are born.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Jessica Baker

SB 0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Winder

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Jessica Winder and I am a resident of Frederick, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Jessica Winder

SB 985 Favorable Testimony for JPR Committee.docx.

Uploaded by: Jim Caldiero

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony

SB 985 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards Favorable Report

To: Sen. Will Smith, Chair, Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate Immigration,
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry-Maryland
Date: March 12, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in FAVOR of **SB 985, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.**

I encourage your committee to deliver a favorable report on **SB 985**. As you may know, companion bill **HB 1018** passed its third reading overwhelmingly with a sufficient majority as an emergency bill.

The Department of Homeland Security, in particular its subordinate agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has a long, documented history of inhumane treatment, inadequate medical care, and unsafe conditions that have put the lives of detained immigrants at risk, many of whom have died as a result of their detention.

As our partners, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice reported, “ICE detention centers can impose significant economic burdens on local communities while delivering minimal local benefits. Once ICE purchases a warehouse, it is removed from the local tax base. Moreover, high paying positions at detention centers require specialized certifications or security clearances, so contractors tend to import staff from outside the region; local hiring is often concentrated in low-wage, high-turnover roles. Local governments may be forced to upgrade infrastructure to accommodate high water usage, wastewater treatment, garbage disposal, and environmental monitoring. In addition, local communities often absorb the cost of road maintenance, emergency response, and fire protection. Finally, poor in-center health care leads to increased emergency room utilization in surrounding communities, leaving local hospitals to bear the burden.”

A recent congressional delegation to an ICE detention facility in Minnesota, Fort Snelling, for example, described the conditions as “akin to a third world prison.” U.S. Representative Kelly Morrison, a medical doctor, echoed the concerns of the detainees about the lack of healthcare and scarcity of blankets when the detainees were forced to sleep on the floor.

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd [www.Twitter.com/uulmmd](https://www.twitter.com/uulmmd)

We must ensure that these appalling conditions will not exist in Maryland. Urgent action is needed to protect the lives of immigrants in detention before it's too late. **SB 985** is one step toward ensuring humane treatment, ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

My faith, which I share with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across the state, affirms that every human being has worth and should be treated with respect and dignity. The inhumane treatment of immigrant detainees is anathema to these values. Please ensure that no immigrant in Maryland will suffer the indignities described.

I encourage the committee to vote favorably on **SB 985**.

Thank you.

Sources:

Macias, Martin. "Immigrants at ICE's Adelanto detention center denounce lack of medical care and inhumane conditions," LA Times, 2/9/2026,
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/society-culture-and-history/human-rights/immigrants-at-ice-s-adelanto-detention-center-denounce-lack-of-medical-care-and-inhumane-conditions/ar-AA1VZOgH?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

Hoggard, Corin. "ICE detention conditions at Fort Snelling labeled 'inhumane'," Fox9 News, Minneapolis-St.Paul, 2/3/2026,
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/ice-detention-conditions-at-fort-snelling-labeled-inhumane/ar-AA1VwJRr?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.Twitter.com/uulmmd

SB 0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Joanne Heckman

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

This is abuse for profit.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Joanne Heckman
Columbia, Md 21044

SB0985 - Favorable - John Ford.pdf

Uploaded by: John Ford

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted in collaboration with Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. I am a resident and community association leader in **District 46, one of the most immigrant-dense communities in our state. The perceived safety of those immigrant communities is essential to the continued growth and vitality of the district, City, and State. I am testifying in support of SB0985 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.**

The bill SB0985 would require Maryland to:

- establish mandatory minimum standards for conditions in immigration detention facilities;
- expand oversight and reporting authority to include inspections, public complaints, and staff reporting obligations;
- enforce compliance through annual facility certifications, with potential closure for life-threatening deficiencies.

All human beings have fundamental rights and dignities that must be respected. In Maryland, we have a system of minimum standards for correctional facilities, which are enforced by a commission that reports to the Governor and the General Assembly. Unfortunately, in detention facilities run by private companies, the requirement to respect the rights of the incarcerated is in direct conflict with the profit motives of those running these facilities. This is especially likely to be true when private companies are allowed to convert warehouses or other buildings not intended to house human beings into detention centers. In 2025, conditions in immigration detention facilities specifically declined, with “worsening and substandard medical care, growing complaints of abusive conditions, and documented extensive violations of detention standards.”¹ These declines are driven by the ongoing, mass arrests of immigrants by the federal government, and seem unlikely to resolve without outside pressure forcing facilities to comply with basic standards.

By introducing minimum standards for these facilities and increasing reporting requirements, state officials can help prevent these abuses. By also instituting penalties for failure to meet these requirements, state officials can compel compliance with the standards. SB0985 would improve conditions in private immigrant detention facilities by subjecting them to the same standards and scrutiny as our state-run correctional facilities.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB0985.

Sincerely,

John Preston Ford
529 S East Ave
Baltimore, MD 21224

¹ Reichlin, Aaron. “New Report Details ICE’s Expanding and Increasingly Unaccountable Detention System.” American Immigration Council, 23 January 2026, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/ice-expanding-detention-system/>. Accessed 9 February 2026.

JWeis testimony SB985 - Detention Center Safety.do

Uploaded by: Julianne Weis

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Julianne Weis and I am a resident of Silver Spring, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

My husband is from Germany. His grandparents were part of the war generation. We know firsthand what happens when good people stand by in the face of atrocities. The planned concentration camps by ICE are atrocities that Maryland must stand up against.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Julianne Weis.

SB985_JulieSimon_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Julie Simon

Position: FAV

March 10, 2026
Julie Simon
Towson, Maryland, 21286

TESTIMONY ON SB0985 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

TO: Chair Will Smith, Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Julie Simon

My name is Julie Simon. I am a resident of District 43B. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0985, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.

For the last several years I have been the team lead for the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Welcome Circle. During that time we have lived our Jewish and civic values, welcoming two Afghan families to Baltimore County and getting to know others from the over 35 Afghan families that live in Cockeysville.

In recent months, the Trump administration has launched a racist, xenophobic and deadly campaign against immigrants across the United States, including attacking parents and families at schools and at work, deploying military equipment to terrorize communities, housing people in inadequate facilities, racially profiling U.S. citizens and shooting people. It is against this backdrop that I am writing to express my support for a favorable report on SB0985, which will establish minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities.

There have been ongoing reports – and documentation of – human rights abuses at the Fallon Center immigration detention facility, including overcrowding, disease outbreaks, and inadequate food and medical care. Maryland has an obligation to protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. As Jews, we have a long history of persecution and know the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of immigration status. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0985.**

SB985 support Detention Center Safety.pdf

Uploaded by: Juliet Brown

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is **Juliet Brown** and I am a resident of **St. Mary's County**, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States "[one of the most exciting periods](#)," due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Juliet Brown

Tall Timbers, MD 20690

Testimony on SB0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Karen Van Trieste

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Karen Van Trieste and I am a resident of Easton, MD. I strongly urge your committee to pass SB0985 sponsored by Senator Smith.

This emergency bill will codify minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities. Because the Department of Homeland Security currently is engaged in mass immigration detention and deportation efforts, passing this bill is urgent to ensure that the health and safety of immigrants who are detained in Maryland will be protected by state law.

There have been numerous reports of medical neglect, overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, inadequate sanitary facilities, disease outbreaks and even human rights abuses at Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities throughout the country. Here in Maryland, immigrants at the George Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore have been subjected to overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, lack of access to clean water and denial of medical care.

As a registered nurse, I am especially concerned about reports of communicable diseases, inadequate sleeping conditions and medical neglect that have occurred at immigration detention facilities. I am troubled by hearing stories of women who have been denied access to feminine hygiene products and bathroom facilities. Passage of SB0985 will help protect immigrants from neglect and abuse while they are in ICE facilities in our state.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable vote on SB0985.

Respectfully,

Karen Van Trieste

SB 985 JPR D4CC fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Kate Sugarman

Position: FAV



Testimony on SB 985 - Favorable

SB 985 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 12, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

Doctors for Camp Closure Maryland chapter offers favorable testimony in support of SB-985 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.

Doctors for Camp Closure is a non-partisan organization of over 2,200 physicians and health care professionals from all specialties who oppose inhumane detention of migrants and refugees. We advocate for humane and just treatment for immigrants and are very opposed to ICE detention for our immigrant community.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by prohibiting immigration detention in Maryland in every way possible.

We know as eyewitnesses, that there is no healthy amount of time for an immigrant to be detained. We have been inside of immigration detention centers and we know how hazardous these places are both to the immigrants and their families. We see how ICE detention has a negative impact on the health of our immigrant patients. Our mission is to promote good mental and physical health for our patients, while ICE detention has a damaging effect on their short and long-term health.

We are part of a national network where we write medical affidavits on behalf of detained immigrants. We review detention medical records and interview the detained immigrants. Many

times they receive medical care that is substandard and often are denied lifesaving medical care. And now ICE is no longer paying for medical care and deaths in detention are rising.

In the past week alone 2 more people have died in ICE custody. One from a condition that could have been treated so easily, a dental infection. ICE by their own admission is no longer paying for medical care. I just got someone released from ICE custody because he was near death due to the lack of medical care. The proposed warehouse in Hagerstown does not have nearly the water capacity needed to provide the detainees with adequate water for drinking and washing. But this corresponds to the eye witness account of detainees in ICE facilities who are denied access to clean drinking water and water for washing.

In addition, family members suffer when their parents and spouses are picked up by ICE and locked up out of reach from their family members. Families lose their wage earners and children lose their fathers. These children can no longer concentrate in school and suffer a host of psychological consequences.

Children in detention are severely suffering emotionally and physically and many will be affected for decades if not the rest of their lives. As we noted when we testified for the Dignity not Detention bill a few years ago, detention centers have no place in the state of Maryland. We are horrified that even with that bill having been enacted, we are now facing imminent threat of a detention center in Maryland.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we strongly support a clean bill which will prohibit to the extent possible, any ICE detention centers in Maryland. This is what will bring Maryland closer to our values.

Doctors for Camp Closure Maryland urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 985.

Kate Sugarman, MD

Doctors for Camp Closure co leader

Potomac MD

Testimony in Support of SB0985_Blaha_SURJ.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Blaha

Position: FAV

Tuesday, March 10, 2026



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am submitting this testimony as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore, a group of individuals working to mobilize white people in a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am testifying **in support of SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards** to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.

HB1018 would require Maryland to:

- establish mandatory minimum standards for conditions in immigration detention facilities;
- expand oversight and reporting authority to include inspections, public complaints, and staff reporting obligations;
- enforce compliance through annual facility certifications, with potential closure for life-threatening deficiencies.

All human beings have fundamental rights and dignities that must be respected. In Maryland, we have a system of minimum standards for correctional facilities, which are enforced by a commission that reports to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Unfortunately, in detention facilities run by private companies, the requirement to respect the rights of the incarcerated is in direct conflict with the profit motives of those running these facilities. This is especially likely to be true when private companies are allowed to convert warehouses or other buildings not intended to house human beings into detention centers. In 2025, conditions in immigration detention facilities specifically declined, with “worsening and substandard medical care, growing complaints of abusive conditions, and

documented extensive violations of detention standards.”¹ These declines are driven by the ongoing mass arrests of immigrants by the federal government, and are not likely to resolve without outside pressure forcing facilities to comply with basic standards.

By introducing minimum standards for these facilities and increasing reporting requirements, state officials can help prevent these abuses. By also instituting penalties for failure to meet these requirements, state officials can compel compliance with the standards. HB1018 would improve conditions in private immigrant detention facilities by subjecting them to the same standards and scrutiny as our state-run correctional facilities.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Katherine Blaha
Baltimore, MD 21209
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore

¹ Reichlin, Aaron. “New Report Details ICE’s Expanding and Increasingly Unaccountable Detention System.” American Immigration Council, 23 January 2026, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/ice-expanding-detention-system/>. Accessed 9 February 2026.

FAVORABLE SB985_Katherine Vaughn.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Vaughn

Position: FAV

**Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum
Mandatory Standards**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is **Katherine Vaughn** and I am a resident of **Catonsville**, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

I care deeply about this issue because I love my immigrant neighbors, friends, and communities, and I do not trust this federal administration to respect their rights to fairness, due process, or humane treatment in a detention center.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Katherine Vaughn

Written Testimony - SB0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathryn Little

Position: FAV

Written Testimony
Bill: **SB0985**
Position: **FAV**

March 10, 2026

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

As a concerned Maryland citizen, I am in favor of SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards, and I urge your support.

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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated.

I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Little
881 W Lombard St
Baltimore, MD 21201

IB Testimony on SB0985 3 10 26.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathy Shulman

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Kathy Shulman, and I am a resident of Baltimore, MD. I am also the co-lead of Indivisible Baltimore's Immigrant Rights Working Group. I strongly urge the committee to pass SB0985.

Indivisible Baltimore is a unified coalition of diverse Baltimore residents who aim to connect, build, and support our community to uphold democracy, justice, and human dignity. We hold local, state and national leaders accountable, protecting the vulnerable, and strengthening democratic participation. Through empathy, education, and nonviolent resistance, we build bridges across political and social divides—because real change happens when we listen, learn, and act together. To date, we represent more than 2300 Baltimore City residents.

A pillar of Indivisible Baltimore's work is to support legislation that helps our state protect our immigrant neighbors and those immigrants across the country who are unjustly and illegally detained and deported by the Department of Homeland Security.

Indivisible Baltimore and 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States "[one of the most exciting periods](#)," due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

[Fill in here: Share a short statement about why you personally care about this issue. You may include personal experiences, family history, professional experience, or values that motivate your support.]

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you for your consideration of this essential piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shulman,
Co-Lead, Immigration Rights Working Group, Indivisible Baltimore
Kathyshulman@proton.me
410-303-5037

SB0985 Detention Center Safety.pdf

Uploaded by: Kendra Westervelt

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Kendra Westervelt and I am a resident of Clarksburg, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

As a resident of Maryland, I think it is important to understand all the dangers and problems associated with these rushed purchases and makeshift facilities and to recognize that facilities that housed goods or services at one time are not set up to house humans. We say we are a civilized country, and we need to start acting like it.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Kendra Westervelt

SB0985 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Kit Reiner

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is **Kit Reiner** and I am a resident of **College Park, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive.

Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

We are currently living under a fascist regime that is terrorizing the country with violent abductions into an intentionally opaque system of for-profit concentration camps rife with murder and various forms of torture. Those who oppose these actions face threats of endless harassment, financial penalties, unlawful imprisonment, and murder. If we do not do everything possible to stop the destruction of human lives, then we are complicit in the destruction of our own country. The state of Maryland CANNOT be a tool for this regime and our resources must be allocated to our residents, especially the most vulnerable.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or

incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Kit Reiner

SB985_KL_FAV.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Kyle Long

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Kyle Long, LCSW-C and I am a resident of Baltimore, MD living in District 43. I strongly urge the committee to pass SB0984.

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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Kyle Long, LCSW-C

Laura-Gillette-testimony-SB0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Gillette

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Laura Gillette and I am a resident of Columbia, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the financial windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Detention camps in the U.S. are a violation of basic human rights, causing immense suffering for those who find themselves detained—often for seeking safety, freedom, or a better life. These facilities, which primarily house migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, are marked by overcrowding, inhumane conditions, and a complete disregard for the dignity of the individuals inside. Children are separated from their families, people endure physical and emotional trauma, and legal due process is often delayed or denied. The very existence of these camps reflects a system that prioritizes punitive measures over compassion, and deterrence over empathy. Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated.

Instead of providing refuge to those fleeing violence and persecution, these camps become places of fear, hopelessness, and despair, reinforcing a dangerous narrative that dehumanizes immigrants and undermines the values of justice and fairness that the country claims to uphold. Detaining hard working immigrants while separating families does not solve any problem, it just manifests cruelty.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Laura Gillette

L.Walsh_SB0985 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Walsh

Position: FAV

Laura Walsh
3409 Keswick Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21211
(410) 200-8017
Laura.ann.taylor95@gmail.com
March 10, 2026

Dear Senator Smith, Senator Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB0985 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.

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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

I believe Maryland has a responsibility to protect its immigrant residents from the unjust treatment immigrant Americans are currently facing from the federal government. Creating guardrails to guarantee the health and safety of all human beings is one facet of that responsibility.

Sincerely,
Laura Walsh

Testimony IN FAVOR SB985 Indivisible HoCoMD.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurie Liskin

Position: FAV



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
Howard County, Maryland 21024

SB985 FAVORABLE_Lia Nigro.pdf

Uploaded by: Lia Nigro

Position: FAV

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

SB985 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 12, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

I, Lia Nigro, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **SB985- Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**

This bill is necessary because of an alarming disregard on the part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the health and safety of the individuals that it detains prior to deportation.

A U.S. Senate investigation last year found dozens of cases of medical neglect, including detainees being denied insulin, waiting weeks for prescriptions, and suffering heart attacks after complaining of chest pain for days without treatment. DHS has now even stopped paying for outside medical services. Reports of inadequate or spoiled food as well as uncorrected health and sanitation code violations are common.

Furthermore, DHS is currently seeking space to hold detainees in facilities that are not designed for human habitation. If this is not halted in Maryland by other current legislation (as I hope it will be), close supervision and review will be necessary to try to ensure that ventilation, heating, water supply, light, etc. can be made adequate.

The Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards can apply experience to developing standards that rise above what we have been seeing. Their proposed expanded duties to seek out compliance, backed up by the Attorney General, are very necessary.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB985.

SB985 - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum

Uploaded by: Lindsay Keipper

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. I am a resident of **District 46**, and I am **testifying in support of SB985 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities**.



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The bill SB985 would require Maryland to:

- establish mandatory minimum standards for conditions in immigration detention facilities;
- expand oversight and reporting authority to include inspections, public complaints, and staff reporting obligations;
- enforce compliance through annual facility certifications, with potential closure for life-threatening deficiencies.

All human beings have fundamental rights and dignities that must be respected. In Maryland, we have a system of minimum standards for correctional facilities, which are enforced by a commission that reports to the Governor and the General Assembly. Unfortunately, in detention facilities run by private companies, the requirement to respect the rights of the incarcerated is in direct conflict with the profit motives of those running these facilities. This is especially likely to be true when private companies are allowed to convert warehouses or other buildings not intended to house human beings into detention centers. In 2025, conditions in immigration detention facilities specifically declined, with “worsening and substandard medical care, growing complaints of abusive conditions, and documented extensive violations of detention standards.”¹ These declines are driven by the ongoing, mass arrests of immigrants by the federal government, and seem unlikely to resolve without outside pressure forcing facilities to comply with basic standards.

By introducing minimum standards for these facilities and increasing reporting requirements, state officials can help prevent these abuses. By also instituting penalties for failure to meet these requirements, state officials can compel compliance with the standards. SB985 would improve conditions in private immigrant detention facilities by subjecting them to the same standards and scrutiny as our state-run correctional facilities.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB985.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Keipper

2425 Fleet St.

Baltimore, MD

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

¹ Reichlin, Aaron. “New Report Details ICE’s Expanding and Increasingly Unaccountable Detention System.” American Immigration Council, 23 January 2026, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/ice-expanding-detention-system/>. Accessed 9 February 2026.

Testimony FOR SB0985 LG.pdf

Uploaded by: Linnie Girdner

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

My name is Linda Girdner and I live in Gambrills, MD. **I am testifying in support of SB0985 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.**

The bill SB0985 would require Maryland to:

- establish mandatory minimum standards for conditions in immigration detention facilities;
- expand oversight and reporting authority to include inspections, public complaints, and staff reporting obligations;
- enforce compliance through annual facility certifications, with potential closure for life-threatening deficiencies.

All human beings have fundamental rights and dignities that must be respected. In Maryland, we have a system of minimum standards for correctional facilities, which are enforced by a commission that reports to the Governor and the General Assembly. Unfortunately, in detention facilities run by private companies, the requirement to respect the rights of the incarcerated is in direct conflict with the profit motives of those running these facilities. This is especially likely to be true when private companies are allowed to convert warehouses or other buildings not intended to house human beings into detention centers. In 2025, conditions in immigration detention facilities specifically declined, with “worsening and substandard medical care, growing complaints of abusive conditions, and documented extensive violations of detention standards.”¹ These declines are driven by the ongoing, mass arrests of immigrants by the federal government, and seem unlikely to resolve without outside pressure forcing facilities to comply with basic standards.

By introducing minimum standards for these facilities and increasing reporting requirements, state officials can help prevent these abuses. By also instituting penalties for failure to meet these requirements, state officials can compel compliance with the standards. SB0985 would improve conditions in private immigrant detention facilities by subjecting them to the same standards and scrutiny as our state-run correctional facilities.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB0985.

Sincerely,

Linda Girdner

Member, Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

1 Reichlin, Aaron. “New Report Details ICE’s Expanding and Increasingly Unaccountable Detention System.” American Immigration Council, 23 January 2026,

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/ice-expanding-detention-system/>. Accessed 9 February 2026.

SB __985 FAV (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Barkan

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2026

Lisa Anne Barkan
Towson MD 21286

TESTIMONY ON SB#985 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

**Correctional Services–Private Immigration Detention Facilities–Minimum
Mandatory Standards**

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

FROM: Lisa Anne Barkan

My name is Lisa Anne Barkan. I am a resident of District 42B. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#985 Correctional Services–Private Immigration Detention Facilities—Minimum Mandatory Standards

The Trump Administration is engaged in a nationwide campaign to terrorize and demonize immigrants. Masked ICE Agents, who do not carry identification illegally pull immigrants out of their cars, forcibly enter their homes, and remove them from their families. Again, without any cause or due process of law, immigrants are then sent to Immigration Detention Centers where they are warehoused and subject to appalling conditions—lack of adequate sanitation, food, and medical care. Recently, a man who was being detained in an Immigration Detention Center in Arizona died because he had a toothache and was not provided with dental care. This is not an isolated incident.

On March 9, 2026 the Democratic members of Maryland’s congressional delegation, as well as state and local lawmakers (the Delegation) , made an unannounced visit to a US Customs and Enforcement Facility in Baltimore.--where immigrants are detained. The Delegation found deplorable conditions including, “insufficient beds and a single sink and toilet [for] dozens of people.” Representative Ivy, a former prosecutor who said “he’s seen the inside of plenty of jails,” remarked that he “never has seen anything like that.” The Baltimore Banner, “No detainees at Baltimore ICE facility during congressional visit,”

I became an attorney because of my profound belief in the rule of law. I have loved my country—even with its many flaws.—because of its ideals: to pursue justice, to encourage dissent, and to welcome all. My grandparents fled to the United States to escape pogroms. The U.S. provided them safety and security. My sacred texts teach me to treat everyone the same and to welcome, protect, care for and love those from other lands. I am commanded “not to wrong them.” Leviticus 19:33-34.

No one should be forced to live in inhumane conditions. SB#985 would prevent this. It would by requiring Immigration Detention Facilities to comply with certain minimum standards to ensure the well being of those who are detained.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#985.

Testimony SB985.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Siano

Position: FAV

Hello. My name is Lisa Siano. I live in Columbia MD.

I am writing to urge a favorable report on SB985.

This bill is necessary to require the appropriate authorities to formulate rules and regulations for detention facilities.

People are being held in terrible conditions in warehouses never meant for human habitation.

Minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities must be created to protect detainees.

Therefore I urge a favorable report on SB985.

SB0985_Basic Necessities for Detained Humans.pdf

Uploaded by: Liz Enagonio

Position: FAV



Admin Team
Email: info@ibbmd.org
Liz Enagonio
Jasmine Gollup
Amy Stevens
Carriann Petersen

TESTIMONY FOR SB0985
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Organization Submitting: Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD)
Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, co-founder
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony **in favor of SB0985** on behalf of Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD). IBBMD is a group of several hundred grassroots activists in Bowie and surrounding areas in Prince George's County, working to bring justice, equality, and people-centric legislation to Maryland.

IBBMD supports SB0985 because loopholes in current Maryland law permit municipalities to approve Immigrant Detention Centers without proper zoning requirements. In turn, this loophole leads to their ability to stick a Detention Center anywhere they can purchase property, including areas without access to sufficient water, utility service or access to medical care for people they incarcerate. We already see Washington County circumventing the Maryland ban on detention centers by sanctioning the use of a warehouse built for storage of goods as a detention center to house human beings. This warehouse is in an area of Washington County that is not zoned for overnight habitation. There is no plan for how DHS plans to humanely house hundreds or thousands of our FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS in a warehouse. DHS has yet to present a clear plan on how, in an area not zoned for housing human beings, it will provide basic necessities such as water and sanitation services for people it plans to incarcerate. DHS has not provided any plan for how they plan to provide adequate medical care for incarcerated fellow human beings in an area where medical systems are already strained caring for current residents.

We have already seen photos, videos, and heard first-person reports documenting the human rights abuses in the Fallon Center in Baltimore, where at least 100 FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS are crammed into tight spaces without access to clean water or sanitary facilities. Is this DHS's plan for bringing hundreds or thousands of people into Washington County against their will: just not provide services?

In no way should anyone condone creating concentration camps in Maryland, especially when state law expressly bans immigrant detention centers. The least we can do is require that any place where people are held, detained, or incarcerated meet basic human safety and health requirements. It's shameful we need to pass a law saying this, but we do.

For these reasons, IBBMD urges that you support SB0985 and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

SB 985 Immigration Detention Facilities--Minimum Ma

Uploaded by: Loreen Heinz

Position: FAV

SB 985 Correctional Services—Immigration Detention Facilities— Minimum Mandatory Standards

Position: Favorable

March 10, 2026

My name is Loreen Heinz. I am a resident of District 12A, and I am representing myself.

Detention centers of any kind at any level of government have the obligation (legal and moral) to confine people in humane conditions. Detainees should be kept safe from others and themselves; they should receive treatment and care commensurate to what was available to them outside of detention.

Centers should be designed with standards for health maintenance in mind. They should include space for detainees to meet with health professionals, lawyers, and family members. Keep in mind that we are talking about human beings. They should have access to space and light, food, water, beds, medical care as needed, and not caged as in the center in the Everglades. The centers themselves should not be the punishment; they should be a short-term holding center until people can be moved as decided by the courts.

Please vote in Favor or SB 985, set high mandatory standards for immigration detention facilities, and show the country that Maryland treats all people humanely.

FAVORABLE SB0985_LORETTE VETUSI.pdf

Uploaded by: Lorette Vetusi

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY FOR SB0985 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum
Mandatory Standards – Lorette Vetusi – 3/10/26**

Dear Members of the Maryland Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am very strongly in support of this bill which would start setting some guidelines and guardrails about how immigrant detention centers are being run. At the present time, we are experiencing a humanitarian crisis inside these detention centers, and our country should be embarrassed and mortified at the way immigrants are being treated! There have been numerous reports of horrific and hazardous conditions inside these detention camps including poor sanitation and ventilation, physical and sexual abuse, medical neglect and the spread of contagious diseases, intimidation to self-deport, inadequate supplies of food and hygiene products, violations of civil rights, and lack of access to legal counsel, services, and materials. People are held indefinitely, including some who are living in this country legally and should not have been arrested in the first place! Moreover, members of Congress who want to visit these facilities have often been denied access or have had to book advance appointments to do so, which prevents adequate oversight and transparency.

I consider this bill to be one of the most important pieces of legislation brought forth during the current legislative session. Although I would prefer to not have any federal immigration detention centers open for business in Maryland, I realize that is not possible at this time. So the next best thing we can do is to work to make sure that conditions improve in the centers that are operating in our state. Basic minimum standards need to be imposed, including but not limited to safety and security, food services, sanitation and ventilation, meeting the medical needs of detainees, protecting the individual rights of detainees, overcrowding issues, allowing victims of crimes committed inside the detention centers to file complaints and seek restitution, allowing unannounced inspections of these facilities to ensure that the mandated improvements are being made and maintained.

For these reasons, I strongly recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Thank you for working on behalf of all Marylanders.

Sincerely,

Lorette Vetusi

2900 Sedgefield Court

Fallston, MD 21047

2026.0310 SB0985 Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Lydia LaGue

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985:

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

My name is Lydia LaGue and I am a resident of Frederick, MD, 21701. I am President of Frederick AARP Chapter #636, a member of Indivisible Frederick Coalition, and on the Democracy team for Third Act Maryland.

I strongly support 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. CoreCivic and Geo Group will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is a **travesty with respect to humane treatment of detained or incarcerated human beings**. Maryland simply cannot allow this!

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. **For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.**

Thank you,

Lydia Goble LaGue
796-E Wembly Dr
Frederick, MD 21701

SB0985 written testimony final 2.pdf

Uploaded by: Marcia Coe

Position: FAV

March 12, 2026

SB0985

Correctional Services-Immigration Detention Facilities-Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am a resident of St. Mary's County. I strongly urge the committee to pass SB1018. This bill helps to regulate the minimum standards for detention centers in the state of Maryland. Human rights abuses have been reported at various detention facilities, including overcrowding, limited or no access to medical care, inadequate ventilation and temperature control, lack of access to clean water, and poor sanitation. Detainees deserve to receive humane treatment and we need adequate safeguards to ensure that these standards are met.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Coe, MD
Leonardtown, Maryland

FAVORABLE Testimony SB 985 03-12-26.pdf

Uploaded by: Marcia Greenberg

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB 985 – FAVORABLE
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 12, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Marcia Greenberg, and I live in Lexington Park in St Mary's County. I am submitting testimony **in FAVOR OF SB 985**, supporting all efforts to ensure that innocent people who may be rounded up and abducted by ICE in the State of Maryland, or nearby states, will be held only in immigration detention facilities that are properly maintained – with safety and health standards.

In St Mary's County, we have not yet seen ICE agents swarming our streets. But we know that such aggressive targeting could happen at any time. They could come here to detain individuals who have done nothing more than to flee violent and repressive conditions in their home countries, to seek a safe life for their families, to work hard for economic opportunity for their children, and to contribute to a civil society. Many, if not most, are church-going. Most are working hard to put food on the table – and consequently contribute to our local economy and to social security. Many support and serve our local community as employees in hotels and restaurants, in hospitals and clinics, in yard care and in many other jobs. They are the kinds of people who this country has sometimes welcomed with open arms, but has at other times (like currently), stigmatized and refused entry.

We now face a Department of Homeland Security funded with the appallingly astronomical sum of \$170 billion dollars. With such resources, some are being spent to create a gulag of private detention facilities. Members of the Committee: I am a Jewish American, and I know all too well how the Germans rounded up Jews (and others) to detain them in labor and concentration camps, and to murder millions of them. This DHS/ICE force is rogue and is growing. It threatens innocent people – but not only those who were born elsewhere. If not stopped, they will be targeting U.S. citizens. They are already building a secret police, and have demonstrated a willingness or tactical intention to ignore our laws and repress our constitutionally guaranteed rights.

Members of this Committee, we need you to put into place legal mechanisms by which we can restrain those ambitions and protect civil detainees: innocent people who are neither accused of any crime nor have been found guilty through proper due process. We need you to ensure that if and when people are detained, they are held in conditions that are safe, and that do not threaten their *physical* health (while acknowledging that the campaign against them is already detrimental to their *mental health* because the very act of detaining them, separating them from their families, and threatening to send them to their former countries or third-countries must affect their mental health even before they are detained, but already live in fear.)

Further, please enable us – private citizens who are prepared to support our immigrant neighbors – to serve as watchdogs. From the employees in detention centers to people living nearby, we Marylanders who believe in social justice will be seeking ways to protect our innocent neighbors. But in light of the growing surveillance power and ICE as a secret police, it is essential that those who challenge conditions may do so anonymously.

Members of the Committee: We understand that during this Session you are swamped by proposed bills relating to ICE. We understand that you, like us, are being targeted by Steve Bannon’s infamous “firehose”. Please, however, make these bills your priority because they not only affect many innocent people, but are also critical for restraining a repressive force wielded by an authoritarian regime. These times are historic and the issues are existential. Please report out SB 985 **favorably** – for the sake of the many innocent individuals and families in and around the state of Maryland.

Respectfully,
Marcia Greenberg, St Mary’s County

Testimony SB985- Immigration Detention Facilities

Uploaded by: Margaret Nolan

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill-Favorable

SB 985 Correctional Services- Immigration Detention Facilities-Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee-March 10, 2026

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

I write in support of **SB-985** Correctional Services-Minimum Mandatory Standards.

This Bill provides necessary expansions to the Secretary's authority. There is no legitimate public policy reason that civil detainees lack the same protection in care, custody, and conditions as criminal detainees.

The minimal standards become meaningful with the increased accountability provisions. Reporting requirements imposed on security guards and health care staff, and concomitant potential disciplinary actions, are pivotal in assuring compliance. Similar reporting requirements already exist for many health care licensees. See Md Occupations Article and implementing regulations. Similarly, discipline for failure to report counterbalances the incentive to "keep quiet" in solidarity with fellow guards at the risk of being ostracized.

The public record is replete with examples of conditions that shock the conscience in detention facilities. Two of the most recent, local examples are found here:

[Court records reveal gutting of DHS oversight: Incredibly dangerous' | US immigration | The Guardian](#)

[Maryland congressional members find empty Baltimore ICE holding rooms during unannounced visit - CBS Baltimore](#)

Even a cursory review of these facilities supports the need for increased remedies and accountability. Recourse to the justice system rightfully is reposed in the Attorney General, an independently elected constitutional officer. Moreover, giving the Maryland Commission on Correctional standards the authority to cease operation of such facilities under certain circumstances ensures the standards are appropriately enforced administratively and hold all similarly situated facilities accountable. Access to both administrative and judicial remedies is essential to make rights meaningful.

The fiscal note estimates no current costs but suggests "potential significant increase in General Fund expenditures." However, failing to take meaningful, timely action to protect constitutional rights in this historic moment compels investment. If not now, when?

I urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 985.

Margaret Ann Nolan, Esq.

21042

FAVORABLE SB 0985_Marian Marbury.pdf

Uploaded by: Marian Marbury

Position: FAV

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

SB985Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Anne Newkirk

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

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

My name is **Mary Anne Newkirk** and I am a resident of **Howard County, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

We don't live in a police state. We must stand up and say “no” to ICE and its police state tactics. We must not make it easy for companies to make a fast buck at the expense of the dignity of human beings.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,
Mary Anne Newkirk
21044

Testimony on SB0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Kaiser

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Mary Kaiser and I am a resident of Takoma Park, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

As an attorney and concerned citizen, I feel it is imperative that state and local leaders take all possible steps to halt the federal government’s campaign of mass detention of innocent people and to ensure that all individuals’ basic human rights are protected.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Mary Kaiser

SB 985 Testimony Favorable Mary Sing District 18.p

Uploaded by: Mary Sing

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB 985 – Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities –
Minimum Mandatory Standards
Judicial Proceedings Hearing
March 12, 2026**

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

I am writing to urge you to issue a **favorable report on SB 985**. Washington County is allowing ICE to convert a warehouse into a detention facility. If the State of Maryland is unable to stop this process, then we must establish clear, enforceable standards for such a facility. SB 985 provides those critical protections. This bill:

- Establishes minimum safety and living standards.
- Ensures accountability and transparency.
- Empowers meaningful state oversight.
- Creates an enforcement mechanism.
- And protects local and state resources

These safeguards are long overdue. The federal government has deliberately allowed conditions in detention facilities to become inhumane and degrading. This is not accidental—it is a strategy meant to pressure people into self-deportation by making it unbearable. Maryland must not be complicit in this approach. Before a detention facility operates in our communities, we must require strong safeguards that protect human dignity, public resources, and our state values. SB 985 is a responsible and necessary step to ensure that Maryland upholds its values, protects vulnerable people, and asserts appropriate state oversight.

I feel strongly that we should not have roving patrols kidnapping and secreting community members, disregarding due process and the Constitutional Rights afforded to all persons, and concentrating them into camps on the basis of racial profiling, languages spoken, or quotas issued.

I also want to be clear that I do not believe individuals who are not violent criminals should be detained at all. The enormous amount of money being spent on immigration detention does not improve public safety and diverts resources away from what Marylanders actually need.

I urge you to vote **favorable on SB 985** and allow this bill to move forward to the full Senate

Thank you for your time and for your service.

Sincerely,
Mary Sing, District 18 voter

SB0985 FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryrose Wilson

Position: FAV

SB0985- FAV

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I strongly urge the committee to pass SB0985.

There is a clear need for laws that enforce basic health and safety standards on the operation of detention centers. Reports of human rights abuses and disease outbreaks at the Fallon Center in Baltimore indicate that a hundred or more immigrants are crammed into tight spaces with no access to clean water or sanitary facilities. Maryland should do everything possible to prevent such abusive practices. Legal common-sense guardrails are needed.

The CoreCivic and Geo Group, the companies that operate these facilities, have a goal to create detention centers as quickly as possible and to maximize revenue at the cost of the well-being of the human beings they are detaining.

I believe humane treatment of every person, including those who are detained, is an essential element of civil society.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Maryrose Wilson

12102 Coppermine Road Union Bridge MD 21791

2026 SB0985 test supporting 031026.pdf

Uploaded by: Melinda Littell

Position: FAV

Testimony Supporting SB0985
Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities –
Minimum Mandatory Standards

FAVORABLE

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Chair, Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, and esteemed members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to ask you to vote in support of Senate Bill 985 (SB0985). I am strongly in favor of the State’s adoption of minimum mandatory standards applicable to the care, custody, and conditions of incarcerated individuals to apply to civil detainees in immigration detention facilities. I also support the measures intended to improve reporting of violations and security breaches, as well as implementing disciplinary measures to address them. It is important to adopt the enforcement tools to address noncompliance, such as auditing, reporting, and authorizing the Attorney General to bring actions when appropriate for specific violations. Critically, we must enact the provisions for ceasing operation of an immigration detention facility if it endangers the health or life of detainees.

During the past year, immigrants and watchdog groups have reported poor conditions within detainment facilities, including medical mistreatment and neglect, inadequate nutrition, unsanitary conditions, and overcrowding. Detainees are reportedly being held at these facilities longer than they should be, and without adequate oversight. Fueled by over \$45 million in funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention as part of the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” immigration experts say 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.” The rush to acquire and develop detention facilities nationwide has created financial incentives for private entities such as warehouse owners to sell properties to the government for profit. We have already seen this occurring in Maryland.

It is more important than ever for Maryland to ensure it is doing all it can to promote the health and safety of incarcerated individuals or civil detainees. For these reasons, I urge your favorable report on SB0985.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melinda Littell
Arnold, D33C

Testimony on Senate Bill 985-MGK.pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Koul

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill SB985 – Favorable
SB985 – Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory
Standards
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Michelle Koul, and I am a constituent of District 31. I am writing **to support SB985 – Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**

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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

I feel like I barely recognize my country. I sadly changed out my American house flag for a Maryland flag in the hope that our state government won't disappoint me. Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated.

Please submit a **favorable** report on **SB985 – Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Dr. Michelle Koul (she/her)
Severna Park, MD 21146

CE Ball 2026 - SB0985 - Correctional Services - Im

Uploaded by: Monica Perez

Position: FAV



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
cball@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov
FAX 410-313-3051

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of Senate Bill 0985:** Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards

Dear Chair Smith Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill (SB) 0985, an impactful piece of legislation that establishes clear, concise, and enforceable minimum standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of individuals held in immigration detention facilities in Maryland.

As Howard County Executive, I wholeheartedly believe that **all individuals** – regardless of their immigration status, deserve to be treated with dignity, fairness, and basic human decency. SB 0985 does just that by upholding these core values and requiring the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt mandatory regulations that ensure consistent standards of care for civil detainees in immigration detention facilities.

Civil detainees are not serving criminal sentences. Yet, too often, the conditions under which they are confined to while awaiting their administrative proceedings resemble or fall below those of correctional institutions. SB0985 addresses this gap by establishing clear statewide standards that reflect the civil nature of immigration detention. By creating uniform expectations and clear lines of authority, we are assuring our community members that facilities operating in Maryland meet standards consistent with our shared values and commitment to humane treatment.

Moreover, in Howard County, we have long prioritized equity, human rights, and responsible governance. We understand that safeguarding the well-being of individuals in custody strengthens public trust in government institutions.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to **support SB0985** and show that Maryland's leadership is ensuring civil detention is conducted with accountability, compassion, and respect for human dignity, no matter one's status.

Respectfully,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

Testimony for SB0985 - Detention Center Safety.doc

Uploaded by: Paula Martin

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Paula Martin and I am a resident of Gaithersburg, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

I am a member of a Jewish congregation, and as such, I stand in unequivocal support of our immigrant neighbors. The care we hold for our neighbors is deeply embedded in our Jewish traditions and faith. There is no commandment that is more frequently mentioned in the Torah than the call to protect the stranger. The lessons of the Torah underscore the destructive power of xenophobia, teaching us that sympathy and prayers won't suffice. Only real, collective action will be effective against hate.

The very existence of these detention camps reflects a system that prioritizes punitive measures over compassion, and deterrence over empathy. Instead of providing refuge to those fleeing violence and persecution, these camps become places of fear, hopelessness, and despair, reinforcing a dangerous narrative that dehumanizes immigrants and undermines the values of justice and fairness that the country claims to uphold. Detaining hard working immigrants while separating families does not solve any problem, it just manifests cruelty.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Paula Martin

SB 985 FAV Judicial Proceedings Committee.pdf

Uploaded by: Philippa Gasnier

Position: FAV

Philippa Gasnier
7005 Southwark Terrace
Hyattsville MD 20782
(240) 475-2202
pegemail@gmail.com

Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee
Testimony on: SB 0985 - (Correctional Services - Immigration Detention
Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards)
Organization: Individual
Person Submitting: Philippa Gasnier
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 12, 2026

Dear Chairman Smith and members of the committee,

I am writing in favor of SB-0985 (Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards), which provides for establishment of regulations ensuring certain minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities.

We have seen the federal government rushing to create detention centers which results in safety, health and environmental standards so inadequate that many deaths have already occurred. Journalists and attorneys have reported that these black holes of misery have extreme overcrowding, inhumane temperatures, inadequate water and food and unsanitary facilities. Children are held in some of these facilities. Maryland has an obligation to prevent this from continuing in our State. Maryland must act to establish minimum mandatory standards of care to eliminate these concentration camp conditions.

I support SB-0985 as a critical measure and ask that you vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you,
Philippa Gasnier

In support of SB0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Rhys Frazier

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Rhys Frazier and I am a resident of Sabillasville, MD. I strongly urge the committee to pass SB0985.

This bill would require basic health and human safety standards be met across detention centers and correctional facilities. Given reports of human rights abuse and an outbreak of preventable bacterial infections at the Fallon Center in Baltimore, where a hundred or more human beings 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.

The private companies that operate these facilities stand to make material financial gains by neglecting basic health and safety needs of the people they imprison. CoreCivic and Geo Group will make \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone. CoreCivic CEO Damon Hininger has openly expressed enthusiasm for the expansion of mass deportation in the United States as “one of the most exciting periods” because of the increase in wealth he and his shareholders will receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible, with as little expense as possible, because this is a business to them. They do not consider their inmates to be human beings with needs or basic rights or dignity, as clearly demonstrated by Todd Lyon's statements comparing the humans being detained by ICE to Amazon packages. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, those that can't even acknowledge their prisoners as people subject inmates to abhorrent conditions in the name of profit.

I could acknowledge that American citizens are being imprisoned without due process, ripped from their homes or cars or neighborhood sidewalks and given no opportunity to show their identification. I could acknowledge that immigration violations are most often civil and not criminal offenses. I could mention the children who have been separated from their families. But I shouldn't need to rely on citizenship status, the comparative severity of an infraction, or the shattered innocence of affected kids to carry the point that these are human beings, with all of the complexity, hopes, fears, needs, and aspirations that come with it. These folks rode with us on the bus. They smiled at us when we passed each other on hiking trails. They thanked us when we held a door open for them because they were pushing a stroller. They had their favorite morning drink in the mug with their kid's kindergarten art on it. They share a million tiny points of connection with me and with every member of this committee, a kinship that should run so much deeper than the superficiality of skin color, accent, citizenship status, or even their past crimes. We are all just human beings doing out best with the hand we've been dealt, and it is absolutely disgusting that the heads of private prison systems are allowed to deny the humanity of their prisoners to profit from their suffering.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, especially those in populations vulnerable to mistreatment like detainees and inmates. In the name of basic human decency, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Rhys Frazier

Eckel FAV SB0985 - Immigration Detention Facilitie

Uploaded by: Rianna Eckel

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

My name is Rianna Eckel, I am a resident of District 43A, and a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore is a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. **I am writing in support of SB0985 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The bill SB0985 would require Maryland to:

- establish mandatory minimum standards for conditions in immigration detention facilities;
- expand oversight and reporting authority to include inspections, public complaints, and staff reporting obligations;
- enforce compliance through annual facility certifications, with potential closure for life-threatening deficiencies.

All human beings have fundamental rights and dignities that must be respected. In Maryland, we have a system of minimum standards for correctional facilities, which are enforced by a commission that reports to the Governor and the General Assembly. Unfortunately, in detention facilities run by private companies, the requirement to respect the rights of the incarcerated is in direct conflict with the profit motives of those running these facilities. This is especially likely to be true when private companies are allowed to convert warehouses or other buildings not intended to house human beings into detention centers. In 2025, conditions in immigration detention facilities specifically declined, with “worsening and substandard medical care, growing complaints of abusive conditions, and documented extensive violations of detention standards.”¹ These declines are driven by the ongoing, mass arrests of immigrants by the federal government, and seem unlikely to resolve without outside pressure forcing facilities to comply with basic standards.

By introducing minimum standards for these facilities and increasing reporting requirements, state officials can help prevent these abuses. By also instituting penalties for failure to meet these requirements, state officials can compel compliance with the standards. SB0985 would improve conditions in private immigrant detention facilities by subjecting them to the same standards and scrutiny as our state-run correctional facilities.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB0985.

Sincerely,

Rianna Eckel

2300 Hunter St, Baltimore MD 21218

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

¹ Reichlin, Aaron. “New Report Details ICE’s Expanding and Increasingly Unaccountable Detention System.” American Immigration Council, 23 January 2026, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/ice-expanding-detention-system/>. Accessed 9 February 2026.

Testimony in support of SB0985 - Immigration Deten

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0985_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/12/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#0985- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

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#0985 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

This bill is introduced to declare the known deficiencies in immigrant detention centers in Maryland are inhumane, unethical, immoral and contrary to Maryland values.

My Jewish faith declares in multiple passages the truth of how this mistreatment violates moral laws. Leviticus 19:33-34 emphasizes “³³ “If a foreigner stays with you in your land, do not do him wrong. ³⁴ Rather, treat the foreigner staying with you like the native-born among you — you are to love him as yourself.” DHS and ICE are failing to uphold this commandment.

WUSA9 TV reported on Feb 7, 2026, *Former ICE Facility Worker 'saw people laying in feces' at Baltimore Detention Center*¹

Whistleblower provides internal documents alleging severe overcrowding, mistreatment months before viral video sparked national outrage

Maryland must stand up against these deprivations by requiring the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt regulations establishing certain minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities; altering certain duties of and prohibitions on the actions of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards relating to correctional facilities and immigration detention facilities; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0985.

¹ <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/investigations/ice-detention-facility-overcrowding-baltimore-whistleblower-dhs-unsanitary-trump/65-03dda8d7-49a9-4caf-b001-db5e12a04158>

SB0985 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard Platt

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is **Richard Platt** and I am a resident of **St. Mary's County**, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States "[one of the most exciting periods](#)," due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Richard Platt

Colton's Point, MD

Immigration testimony on SB 0985 March 10 2026 pdf

Uploaded by: Rosanne Hanratty

Position: FAV

**Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention
Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 10, 2026
Position: Favorable**

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

I am Rosanne Hanratty, a resident of Howard County, MD. I strongly urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB0985. My support of legislation protecting Maryland's immigrant population is grounded in my faith, personal experience, and my role as citizen. **My faith calls upon me to recognize all people as children of God, entitled to dignity and care.** Consistent with the teaching of the biblical prophets, the words of Jesus, and Catholic social teaching, my faith has led to my participation in parish immigration mobilization efforts. In addition to advocacy and direct ministry to others regardless of immigration status, we, as a parish, publicly witness and pray the Rosary at the Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore, for all immigrants, migrants and those in danger of deportation, especially those detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in that building.

SB 0985 would codify common-sense guardrails on the operation of detention and holding centers and correctional facilities. Given reports of human rights abuses and disease outbreaks at the Fallon Building, where a hundred or more immigrant detainees were crammed into tight spaces with no access to clean water or sanitary facilities, and who, upon visitation by Maryland's federal legislators on March 9, 2026, had all been moved to a location that neither DHS nor ICE would disclose, there is a clear need for laws that enforce basic health and safety standards on the operation of such facilities.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. **CoreCivic and Geo Group will rake in \$1B in revenue** from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States "one of the most exciting periods," (per *Baltimore Banner*) due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is a complete lack of regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Rosanne B. Hanratty Ellicott City MD

SB985 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Russell Reese

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is **Sarah Guroff** and I am a resident of **Hagerstown**, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

The recently purchased warehouse in Williamsport is 15 minutes from my house. I am horrified to imagine the unsanitary, unsafe and inhumane conditions that will undoubtedly arise in this rapidly repurposed warehouse. I have no problem with lawful enforcement of our nation’s immigration laws. The current federal administration incentivizing inhumane and immoral treatment of individuals detained in its immigration enforcement actions brings shame on America. Please do not allow it to bring shame on Maryland.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Russell Reese

minimum standards- detention facilities.pdf

Uploaded by: Sandra Silbermann

Position: FAV

Sandra Silbermann

Regarding Senate Justice Committee

Correctional Services- Immigration Facilities Detention- Minimum Mandatory Standards

Dear Senator Smith and Committee Members:

My name is Sandra Silbermann and I have been a resident of Maryland for my entire 73 years of life. I am proud of my state and the legislators who represent its' citizens.

I adamantly favor the establishment of minimum standards for all immigration detention facilities. It is inhumane and unethical to have people incarcerated in horrible conditions. To me, it is a simple matter of ethics and caring for your fellow human beings.

Please pass this bill as soon as you can.

Thank-you,

Sandra Silbermann

SB985 - Detention Center Safety.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Guroff

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is **Sarah Guroff** and I am a resident of **Hagerstown**, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

The recently purchased warehouse in Williamsport is 15 minutes from my house. I am horrified to imagine the unsanitary, unsafe and inhumane conditions that will undoubtedly arise in this rapidly repurposed warehouse. I have no problem with lawful enforcement of our nation’s immigration laws. The current federal administration incentivizing inhumane and immoral treatment of individuals detained in its immigration enforcement actions brings shame on America. Please do not allow it to bring shame on Maryland.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Sarah Guroff

SB985 - Detention Center Safety.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Shannon Taylor

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is **Shannon Taylor** and I am a resident of **Catonsville**, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

As a Maryland citizen, I can't sit by and watch my friends and neighbors be stolen from their families, and stored like cattle in warehouses that will not provide them with basic human necessities and dignities.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Shannon Taylor

Shilpa_Shenvi_SB0985_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Shilpa Shenvi

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Shilpa Shenvi, and I am a resident of Laurel, 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. The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone, and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Shilpa Shenvi

SB985 - Detention Center Safety.pdf

Uploaded by: Steven Smith

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Steven Smith and I am a resident of Laurel, 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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

I especially object to the creation of these detention centers in buildings which were never meant for human habitation and which are very likely built in areas which lack the proper infrastructure to provide the water, sanitary and other necessities a large inmate population would require. Furthermore, I question the adequacy of such a structure in protecting the surrounding communities if the intended inmates pose the level of threat the administration claims. If there is a credible requirement for a new detention center to be built, then it should go through the proper design and review required for such a structure.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Steven G Smith

SB985 SSJC fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Susaanti Follingstad

Position: FAV



**Testimony on SB 985 - Favorable
SB 985 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory
Standards
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

March 11, 2026

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

Silver Spring Justice Coalition offers **favorable** testimony in support of **SB 985 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**.

The Silver Spring Justice Coalition is an organization of community members, faith groups, and civil and human rights organizations from throughout Montgomery County that works to reduce the presence of police in our communities; eliminate violence and harm by police; establish transparency and accountability; and redirect public funds toward community needs.

This bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration detention in Maryland in every way possible.

Our immigrant community is already under siege by federal government actions. We thought we'd stopped the problem of immigration detention in Maryland when the Dignity not Detention Act was enacted in 2021, so are appalled to be facing this issue again.

As has been repeatedly reported, individuals in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are routinely met with medical neglect, isolation, and abuse at the hands of detention officials (including during overcrowded and extended stays in what is supposed to be temporary detention at the Fallon Building in Baltimore).

Thirty-two people died in ICE custody in 2025, the highest level since 2004. In January 2026 alone, 6 died in ICE custody and we know of at least 2 who died in the last 2 weeks.

Human rights advocates, immigration lawyers and lawmakers have reported unsanitary conditions, inadequate food and poor medical care in ICE facilities. ICE detention facilities have been cited as serving worm-infested food or no food at all, having people sleeping on concrete floors, withholding medical treatment, denying access to legal representation, and throwing people into solitary without cause.

ICE expansion efforts across the country shows that adding more detention beds results in more community raids (rife with racial profiling and “collateral arrests” of bystanders), more people detained at routine ICE check-ins, and more community members detained for civil violations. The consequences for our communities are severe. Our friends and neighbors, including those who have called Maryland home for decades, live in fear of being detained or deported, forcibly separated from their children, and prevented from supporting their families. This needs to stop.

It is vital that the State ensures that no town, county, or corporation is profiting from family separation or incarceration and that we minimize the risks immigrants face by protecting them from detention in every way possible, including banning facilities in our state by any means.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we strongly support a clean bill which will prohibit to the extent possible, any ICE detention centers in Maryland. This is what will bring Maryland closer to our values.

For these reasons, the **Silver Spring Justice Coalition** adamantly urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 985**.

Susaanti Follingstad
Silver Spring Justice Coalition
Rockville MD 20851

SB985 - Detention Center Safety.pdf

Uploaded by: Tatiana Santos

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0985: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

Position: Favorable

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

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.

The companies that operate these facilities have a lot to gain by cutting corners on health and safety. [CoreCivic](#) and [Geo Group](#) will rake in \$1B in revenue from government contracts this year alone and their leaders consider the expansion of mass deportation in the United States “[one of the most exciting periods](#),” due to the windfalls they stand to receive. Their goal is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible. In the absence of humane and enforceable standards for health and safety, the result is [scarce regard for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities](#).

Given the horrific conditions of many of these detention centers and the fact that the federal government is showing little regard for the health & safety of the detainees, I cannot condone Maryland to be part of this inhumane deportation machine. Maryland must take the higher ground.

We have an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, including those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0985.

Thank you,

Tatiana Santos

SB0985 - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimu

Uploaded by: Theresa M. Hoffman

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. I am a resident of District 43b. **I am testifying in support of SB0985 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The bill SB0985 would require Maryland to:

- establish mandatory minimum standards for conditions in immigration detention facilities;
- expand oversight and reporting authority to include inspections, public complaints, and staff reporting obligations;
- enforce compliance through annual facility certifications, with potential closure for life-threatening deficiencies.

All human beings have fundamental rights and dignities that must be respected. In Maryland, we have a system of minimum standards for correctional facilities, which are enforced by a commission that reports to the Governor and the General Assembly. Unfortunately, in detention facilities run by private companies, the requirement to respect the rights of the incarcerated is in direct conflict with the profit motives of those running these facilities. This is especially likely to be true when private companies are allowed to convert warehouses or other buildings not intended to house human beings into detention centers. In 2025, conditions in immigration detention facilities specifically declined, with “worsening and substandard medical care, growing complaints of abusive conditions, and documented extensive violations of detention standards.”¹ These declines are driven by the ongoing, mass arrests of immigrants by the federal government, and seem unlikely to resolve without outside pressure forcing facilities to comply with basic standards.

By introducing minimum standards for these facilities and increasing reporting requirements, state officials can help prevent these abuses. By also instituting penalties for failure to meet these requirements, state officials can compel compliance with the standards. SB0985 would improve conditions in private immigrant detention facilities by subjecting them to the same standards and scrutiny as our state-run correctional facilities.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB0985.

Sincerely,
Theresa M. Hoffman
803 Seaward Rd., Towson, MD 21286
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

¹ Reichlin, Aaron. “New Report Details ICE’s Expanding and Increasingly Unaccountable Detention System.” American Immigration Council, 23 January 2026, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/ice-expanding-detention-system/>. Accessed 9 February 2026.

Berger SB0985.pdf

Uploaded by: Zackary Berger

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB0985 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum
Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2026

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

I am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **SB0985** Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.

I am a primary care physician who sees undocumented immigrants. My patients are being kidnapped, oppressed, scared, and deported by ICE. ICE is not making us safer in Maryland; they are arresting more and more people, harassing citizens as well.

ICE is well known for failing to provide healthcare to its detainees according to accepted standards. Among other things, this bill would allow a facility to be closed if it is “life threatening or life endangering.” We must not allow such detention facilities in Maryland without at least the ability to guarantee they do not mistreat the detainees.

When you are asked in future years what you did to protect all residents of Maryland, you can point to this bill as evidence.

I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on SB0985.

Zackary Berger, MD, PhD
Baltimore, MD 21218

SB 985_HB 1018_ Correctional Services - Immigrati

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

SB 985/HB 1018: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose SB 985/HB 1018**, concerning *Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards*.

While the humane treatment of individuals in detention is an important concern, this legislation raises significant questions about the appropriate role of state law in regulating facilities that operate under federal immigration authority.

Additionally, **creating a unique set of state-imposed operational standards for federally regulated facilities risks introducing duplicative or overlapping oversight structures**. These added layers of regulation could increase operational complexity without necessarily improving outcomes.

Maryland should not enact policies that could interfere with federal responsibilities or create inconsistencies between state and federal regulatory frameworks.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 985/HB 1018**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals