

HB108-3.31.26.pdf

Uploaded by: ANNA RUBIN

Position: FAV

HB1018 - FAV
Dr. Anna Rubin
Columbia MD 21045
Mar. 31, , 2026

Testimony on House Bill- HB1018 – Favorable

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Judiciary Committee

March 21,, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis and Delegates,

My name is Dr. Anna Rubin and I live in District 13, Howard County Maryland. I am writing in support of HB 1018, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

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

The Torah commands us in 32 different places to care for the stranger. I am impelled by my faith to act to safeguard our neighbors from the deprivations of an out-of-control agency. The state must make sure detention facilities are safe. People are dying in ICE detention facilities now.

A few reasons you should pass this statewide bill:

- More than one in six Maryland residents are immigrants including many in my neighborhood. Many have lived here for decades, work in the community, pay taxes, and contribute to our state in multiple ways. I value living in a community with people of all backgrounds, cultures, and experiences.
-
- The national immigrant system is quite broken. We should not be persecuting people who came here, who are already here for many years making a life with their families. We should not scapegoat others because we and politicians are lacking common sense solutions.
- Private detention centers create fear and distrust in our community, making people afraid to go to work, take their children to school, and shop for basic necessities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on HB1018. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB1018 in Senate_ Immigrant Det. Conditions.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Manuel

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1018 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention
Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

April 1, 2026

Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee: my name is Anne Manuel. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for more than 40 years. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I am writing to support HB1018 imposing mandatory minimum standards for immigration detention facilities.

Nelson Mandela once said that “no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.” By that standard, the United States must be judged very poorly. Conditions in immigrant detention facilities could best be described as cruel, dangerous, and dehumanizing. Reporting on the state of immigrant detention in Florida last July, Human Rights Watch found “conditions that flagrantly violate international human rights standards and the United States government’s own immigration detention standards.”

Indeed conditions are so bad that ICE routinely and illegally denies lawmakers access for inspection without one week advance notice. Reports have emerged of physical and sexual abuse, extreme overcrowding, inadequate and sometimes spoiled food, a hazardous lack of hygiene, and extremely limited access to medical care or counsel. Advocates for immigrants had to obtain a temporary restraining order at one facility to get the administration to provide cots, rather than leaving detained immigrants sleeping on the floor or plastic chairs. As of this writing, dozens have died under these conditions since Trump took office. And while dozens have died due to abuse and neglect, many more have suffered injuries and illness.

Soon after taking office last January, President Trump issued an executive order establishing a “no release” system drastically limiting the availability of release on bond for detained immigrants. Indeed, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act has enough funding to operate some 135,000 detention beds. This makes it particularly alarming that ICE determines who to target based on the color of their skin, the language they speak, or the places they work. Of the more than 3,300 people picked up by ICE in our state last year, the vast majority had no criminal convictions; more than half had never been charged. And it’s only getting worse: a new report by the American Immigration Council states that the increasing use of “at large” arrests in American communities has led to a *2,450% increase in the number of people with no criminal record being held in ICE custody on any given day.*

In short, the Trump administration has created a situation in which individuals can be detained based on their accents, the color of their skin or the place where they work, swept into indefinite detention in subhuman conditions, with almost no recourse or remedy. Maryland should not be a party to such a system. This bill would at least provide for basic detention standards in such centers that exist in the state. Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Manuel
2021 Luzerne Ave
Silver Spring, MD. 20910
301-742-4121
nightsky11@verizon.net

HB1018_ArielleJuberg_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Arielle Juberg

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 8. **I am testifying in support of HB1018 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

All human beings have fundamental rights and dignities that must be respected. These rights and dignities are not contingent on a person's spoken language, country of origin, or immigration status. 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. 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 HB1018.

Sincerely,
Arielle Juberg
3411 Upton Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
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.

HB1018_Correctional_Services_Immigration_Detention

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR HB1018

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stewart

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1018 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.

Test HB 1018 SB 985 April 1 PDF.pdf

Uploaded by: Cynthia Sokolow

Position: FAV

Testimony on HB 1018/SB 985 - Favorable

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

April 1, 2026

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

I, Cynthia Sokolow, of Howard County, MD offer testimony in **support of HB 1018/SB 985**.

This bill will ensure certain standards for the care and condition of people in custody in detention facilities in Maryland.

Over the past year, immigrants in the U.S. have been detained in structures without proper food, medical care and access to legal assistance. Plumbing has been insufficient. Federal lawmakers 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 you to vote **in favor of HB 1018/SB 985**.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sokolow
21042

Testimony in Support of HB1018.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Dawn Sacks

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of HB1018
Correctional Facilities and Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory
Standards**

March 30, 2026

Dear Judicial Proceedings Chair Senator Will Smith, Harford County Committee member Senator Mary-Dulany James, and all Judicial Proceedings Committee members:

I write in strong support of House Bill 1018. This urgently needed bill ensures that anyone held in detention in Maryland – including civil immigration detainees – is held under basic, enforceable standards of care and safety.

HB1018 establishes mandatory care and condition standards required at all correctional facilities and detention centers. These standards ensure that security, safety, food services, and housing and sanitation are adequate to protect the health and well-being of the people being detained. The bill establishes a public reporting mechanism for violations and requires the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards to include a detailed analysis of compliance issues in its annual report. The Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards is empowered to close facilities where life-threatening or health-endangering conditions are found.

This bill does not regulate federal enforcement decisions – it simply sets minimum safety, inspection, and readiness standards for all jails in the state, whether public, private, federal, state, or county. A federal appeals court has already upheld a similar Washington State law, affirming that states may enforce uniform health and safety standards across all detention facilities. Maryland has both the authority and the obligation to act.

Every person held in detention in our state deserves basic human dignity. HB1018 provides a measured, legally grounded framework to ensure that goal is met and that accountability mechanisms are in place when it is not. I urge a favorable report from committee and swift passage by the full Senate.

Respectfully,

Dawn Sacks
1603 Forest Valley Ct.
Forest Hill, MD 21050
sacksdawn@comcast.net

HB1018 Favorable 2026.pdf

Uploaded by: Debi Jasen

Position: FAV

Judicial Proceedings Committee
House Bill 1018
Favorable

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

There have been many firsthand complaints about the lack of: clean water, untainted food, climate control, appropriate facilities, and medical care in ICE detention centers. I hope that the members of this committee will decide that they're opposed to cruel and unusual punishment, and will vote favorably for HB 1018. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD

Testimony on HB1018 after crossover.pdf

Uploaded by: Gita Lefstein

Position: FAV

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB1018: Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

April 1, 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 HB1018: Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards

At least 13 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 ICE is trying to convert 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 **HB1018**.

Thank you.

HB1018 - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimu

Uploaded by: Holly Powell

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections 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** **am testifying in support of HB1018 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The bill 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 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. 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 HB1018.

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.

kenna_ida-21218-HB1018-Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: ida kenna

Position: FAV

ida kenna

Chair of Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America's Trans Rights and Bodily Autonomy Working Group

ida.kenna@protonmail.com

Resident of 21218

March 30, 2026

Concerning **HB1018**, Correctional Services - Correctional Facilities and Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards — **Favorable**

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I urge you to give HB1018, Minimum Mandatory Standards for Correctional Facilities and Immigration Detention, a favorable report, without amendments, and to bring it to a floor vote and ensure its passage through the House.

Over the last year, we've seen a terror campaign against noncitizens (and people of color, and activists) in the name of immigration enforcement. We've even seen it turn into an effort to massively expand their detention system after they accepted the bottleneck on their deportation operations. Their facilities, such as the Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore City, have been overcrowded and without sanitation, adequate access to water, proper sleeping arrangements, and medical services. These conditions have been killing people at an alarming rate, worsened by frequent violence, including sexual violence, waged by ICE guards. I know the State of Maryland does not accept this state of affairs, as demonstrated by the lawsuit against DHS for its violation of laws and policies in its attempt to build a concentration camp in Williamsport, as well as the lawsuit against their inhumane conditions maintained in Fallon.

I believe in the State of Maryland's concern for these violations of human rights carried out on Maryland soil, but I know there are concerns about federal response. Surely, the federal government will lash out when it has the capacity to do so, as it has already been doing, to us and to other states. But this is a fight that must be fought. The People of Maryland will not accept this happening to our neighbors, polluting our communities with sewage and terror.

I urge you to give HB1018 a favorable report and push it through the Senate as soon as possible.

Solidarity,

ida

Montgomery HB1018 FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Jean Montgomery

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
HB 1018 – Immigration Detention Facility Standards
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Hearing**

3/30/26

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, Sponsoring Delegates Crutchfield, Fair, Lehman, Ruth, Schindler, Solomon, Terrasa, Wu, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to issue a favorable report on HB 1018. Washington County is currently allowing ICE to convert a warehouse into an immigration detention facility. If the State of Maryland is unable to stop this process, then it is absolutely essential that we establish clear, enforceable minimum standards for any such facility operating within our borders.

HB 1018 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 immigration detention facilities to become inhumane and degrading. This is not accidental—it is a strategy meant to pressure people into self-deportation by making detention unbearable.

Maryland must not be complicit in this approach. Before a detention facility is allowed to operate in our communities, we must require strong safeguards that protect human dignity, public resources, and the values of this state. HB 1018 is a responsible and necessary step to ensure that Maryland upholds its values, protects vulnerable people, and asserts appropriate state oversight.

This issue is very personal to me because a close family member was wrongfully held in a reeducation, prisoner of war camp for his political and religious beliefs. Holding his pro-democracy beliefs and Catholic faith dear, he sought asylum. With that personal connection in mind, I feel very 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 nothing to improve public safety and diverts resources away from what Marylanders actually need. This issue is not about crime—it is about immigration policy and human rights.

Vote favorable on HB 1018 and allow this bill to move forward to the full House for consideration. Thank you for your time and for your service.

Sincerely,

Jean Montgomery, District 14 Voter, winterwhimsy@proton.me.

Hess - HB1018.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Hess

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1018 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention
Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

April 1, 2026

Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee: my name is Jennifer Hessel. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for almost 30 years. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I am writing to support HB1018 imposing mandatory minimum standards for immigration detention facilities.

Nelson Mandela once said that “no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.” By that standard, the United States must be judged very poorly. Conditions in immigrant detention facilities could best be described as cruel, dangerous, and dehumanizing. Reporting on the state of immigrant detention in Florida last July, Human Rights Watch found “conditions that flagrantly violate international human rights standards and the United States government’s own immigration detention standards.”

Indeed conditions are so bad that ICE routinely and illegally denies lawmakers access for inspection without one week advance notice. Reports have emerged of physical and sexual abuse, extreme overcrowding, inadequate and sometimes spoiled food, a hazardous lack of hygiene, and extremely limited access to medical care or counsel. Advocates for immigrants had to obtain a temporary restraining order at one facility to get the administration to provide cots, rather than leaving detained immigrants sleeping on the floor or plastic chairs. As of this writing, dozens have died under these conditions since Trump took office. And while dozens have died due to abuse and neglect, many more have suffered injuries and illness.

Soon after taking office last January, President Trump issued an executive order establishing a “no release” system drastically limiting the availability of release on bond for detained immigrants. Indeed, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act has enough funding to operate some 135,000 detention beds. This makes it particularly alarming that ICE determines who to target based on the color of their skin, the language they speak, or the places they work. Of the more than 3,300 people picked up by ICE in our state last year, the vast majority had no criminal convictions; more than half had never been charged. And it’s only getting worse: a new report by the American Immigration Council states that the increasing use of “at large” arrests in American communities has led to a *2,450% increase in the number of people with no criminal record being held in ICE custody on any given day.*

In short, the Trump administration has created a situation in which individuals can be detained based on their accents, the color of their skin or the place where they work, swept into indefinite detention in subhuman conditions, with almost no recourse or remedy. Maryland should not be a party to such a

system. This bill would at least provide for basic detention standards in such centers that exist in the state. Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Hess
1910 Luzerne Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-563-6180
jenny.c.hess@outlook.com

Support-HB 1018 - JPR-Immigration Detention Facili

Uploaded by: Jim Caldiero

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony

HB1018 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory - Standards
Favorable Report

To: Senator Will Smith, Jr., Chair, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair,
and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate, Immigration,
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Date: April 1, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in FAVOR of **HB 1018, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**. I encourage your committee to deliver a favorable report on **HB 1018**.

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.

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, echoes the concerns of the detainees about the lack of healthcare, scarcity of blankets when forced to sleep on the floor.

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. **HB 1018** 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 **HB 1018**.

Thank you.

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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)

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,"

<https://www.fox9.com/news/ice-detention-conditions-fort-snelling-labeled-inhumane-feb-2026>, 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>

Testimony IN FAVOR HB1018 4-1-26.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurie Liskin

Position: FAV

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB1018 Correctional Services - Correctional Facilities and Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

April 1, 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 HB1018
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.

More than one in six Maryland residents are immigrants. Many have lived here for decades, work in the
community, pay taxes, and contribute to our state in multiple ways. Maryland values its residents of all
backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. Allowing any immigrant detention centers in Maryland is
antithetical to our state’s values and demonstrated economic need for immigrants.*

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 incredibly poor sanitation and massive overcrowding with detainees sleeping on concrete
floors. Conditions in private detention facilities are often worse than in public facilities since private
facilities prioritize profit over decent conditions for detainees.**

Maryland cannot allow this kind of mistreatment of anyone in our state. We also cannot sanction and
facilitate the illegal actions of ICE agents who have repeatedly ignored the rule of law and the civil rights
guaranteed to all US residents in the Constitution, including undocumented immigrants.

IndivisibleHoCoMD urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on
HB1018.**

Laurie Liskin, on behalf of IndivisibleHoCoMD
Howard County, Maryland 21042

*Comptroller of Maryland State of the Economy Series: Immigration and the Economy, April 2024

**<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/bja/181249.pdf>

HB1018 FAVORABLE_Lia Nigro.pdf

Uploaded by: Lia Nigro

Position: FAV

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB1018 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

April 1, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee:

I, Lia Nigro, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB1018- 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 HB1018.

HB1018 - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimu

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 HB1018 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The bill 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 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. 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 HB1018.

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 HB1018.pdf

Uploaded by: Linnie Girdner

Position: FAV

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

My name is Linda Girdner and I live in Gambrills, MD. **I am testifying in support of HB1018 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.**

The bill 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 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 HB1018.

Sincerely,

Linda Girdner

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

HB1018 testimony Senate hearing final.pdf

Uploaded by: Marcia Coe

Position: FAV

April 1, 2026

HB1018

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Correctional Services-Immigration Detention Facilities-Minimum Mandatory Standards

Position: FAVORABLE

I am a resident of St. Mary's County. I strongly urge the committee to pass HB1018. 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,
Dr. Marcia Coe

TESTIMONY FOR HB1018.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Jo Kirschman

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY FOR HB1018
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

To: Judicial Proceedings, Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members

Organization Submitting: BeTheChangeBmore

Person Submitting: Mary Jo Kirschman, Board member

Position: FAVORABLE

BeTheChangeBmore is an association of over 1500 activists. We are volunteer citizen lobbyists who have been organizing to protect democracy in Maryland since 2016.

We are all shocked 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. ICE agents are rounding up and detaining citizens as well as asylum seekers, including children, and subjecting them to horrific conditions in overcrowded office buildings and in detention centers. More and more of these centers are being planned around the country.

These conditions were videoed in Baltimore City, in the Fallon Building. We all saw the photos, and we're heard the interviews. This has to stop!

HB 1018, if enacted, would require 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

Under this law, anyone (including employees or visitors, such as health professionals) will be able to file a complaint regarding any violation of standards anonymously and online. There will be 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.

Maryland must do everything it can to protect our residents from abuse.

BeTheChangeBmore strongly support this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

2026 HB1018 test supporting 033026.pdf

Uploaded by: Melinda Littell

Position: FAV

Testimony Supporting HB1018
Correctional Services - Correctional Facilities and Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards

FAVORABLE

March 30, 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 House Bill 1018 (HB1018). 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. If an inspector finds conditions within an immigration detention facility threatens life or health, it may order the facility's closure and all civil detainees in the facility must be transferred to a suitable place of detention *at the expense of the State, local governing body, or federal entity responsible for the cost of the closed facility*. This not only ensures safety of detainees, but it also helps prevent Marylanders from shouldering the economic burden when one of these facilities closes because it is deemed a health hazard.

During the past year, immigrants and watchdog groups [have reported poor conditions within detention 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 HB1018.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Littell

Arnold, D33C

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAVHB1018_SENATE CROS

Uploaded by: Michelle Zelaya

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

April 1st 2026

HB1018

**Correctional Services - Correctional Facilities and Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of **House Bill 1018**. The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 1018 directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt regulations that govern the care, custody, and conditions of individuals in these facilities. It also strengthens oversight by requiring the reporting of violations and security breaches and clarifies the role of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards.

This bill ensures that all individuals in detention, particularly civil detainees, are treated with basic dignity and humanity. By establishing consistent standards and strengthening accountability measures, the bill seeks to address gaps that can lead to unsafe or inhumane conditions. It reflects a commitment to ensuring that systems of custody operate responsibly and transparently. It promotes safer, more humane conditions within detention facilities, reduces the risk of neglect or mistreatment, and strengthens public confidence in oversight systems. Families gain reassurance that their loved ones will be treated with dignity, and communities benefit from systems that uphold fairness and accountability.

During times of profound hardship, when individuals and families are facing some of the most difficult and uncertain moments of their lives, we respectfully ask Maryland legislators to take meaningful steps to help alleviate this suffering. Our faith calls us to uphold the dignity of every human person, regardless of circumstance. Even in detention, individuals must be treated with respect, care, and humanity.

Ensuring that loved ones are held in safe and humane conditions provides families with a sense of reassurance and allows them to seek support and services without the added burden of fearing inhumane treatment. Maryland has the opportunity to lead by example—by rejecting mistreatment and affirming the value and dignity of every person. Let us strive to be a state that brings hope in place of despair and replaces fear with compassion and care.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference urges a favorable report on **House Bill 1018**

Testimony 1018- Nikhil Krishnamoorthi.pdf

Uploaded by: Nikhil Krishnamoorthi

Position: FAV

Testimony In Support of SB 985/ HB 1018

Correctional Services - Immigration

Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Submitted to: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Submitted by: Nikhil Krishnamoorthi, Howard County

Date: 3/28/2026

Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Nikhil Krishnamoorthi. I am a 17-year-old junior at River Hill High School in Howard County, Maryland, and I'm here on behalf of many immigrants and families seeking safe, secure refugee and living conditions in Maryland. I have sat across the table from the families this bill is designed to protect.

I want to be clear about why I'm here. I'm not here to represent any organization. I am not here on behalf of an institution. I am here because I have seen things that I cannot unsee, and because people most affected by this legislation cannot stand at the microphone themselves.

Let me be here to represent those families by firmly supporting SB 985.

Over three years of direct client work, I have watched families terrified not just about their cases, but about the most basic thing every family should have. Whether their detained family member has heat in the winter. Whether they can get medical attention. Whether anyone on the outside even knows what conditions they are being held in. Whether anyone knows them, or knows what conditions they are being held in. These were not complex policy questions but just people who were desperate, practical, and confused about their human rights. And too often, I did not have a reassuring answer.

What I have come to understand through this work is something that still stops me cold: immigration detainees in Maryland are currently held to lower standards of care than convicted criminals. What is ironic is that a person who is found guilty of a crime has legal protection governing the conditions of their confinement. A person detained, however, who has been convicted of anything does not. I didn't just come across this issue in a textbook. I learned it by watching real families try to navigate a system that was not built with their dignity in mind.

SB 985/1018 sets a simple standard. It asks that if a human is being detained within the order of this state, that facility must provide functioning necessities such as heating, reliable utilities, emergency power, and mandatory reporting of health and safety violations.

This bill has personally been vouched for in my community. Howard County, where I'm from, recently stood up and said that an ICE detention facility cannot operate here without accountability and proper oversight. SB 985/1018 takes that same commitment and makes it standard to the entire state ensuring that we can hold human beings in conditions that fall below what we demand everywhere else.

I am 17 years old, I have no vote, and I have a lobbying budget. What I have is years of watching real people navigate one of the most overwhelming systems imaginable, the knowledge that the people who need this bill most are not able to be in this room today.

I am here because they cannot be.

I respectfully urge this committee to pass SB 985/SB1018 without any hesitation. The people it protects do not have the luxury of time.

Thank you.

Nikhil Krishnamoorthi
River Hill High School, Class of 2027
Howard County, Maryland
nkrish3630@gmail.com
301-525-8744

CASA_FAV_HB1018.pdf

Uploaded by: Ninfa Amador-Hernandez

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1018

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony** in **support** of **HB 1018 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**.

CASA is a national organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities.

With a membership of over 189,000 members, CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of its members. For nearly forty years, CASA has employed grassroots community organizing to bring our members closer together and fight for justice, while simultaneously providing vital services to communities across the state and beyond. We write in strong support of HB1018 and urge the Committee to advance strong protections to end the harms of civil immigration detention. CASA members have experienced egregious human rights violations at the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) first hand, and their stories guide our testimony today.

A. The Meaning and Impact of HB 1018

HB 1018 extends and enhances minimum mandatory standards on the custody, care and conditions of incarcerated individuals to those subjected to civil detention, which includes immigration detention by ICE. Despite Maryland having put an end to immigration detention many years ago, the issue has resurfaced in the form of unlawful, abusive, prolonged confinement of individuals suspected of immigration violations in the Baltimore Hold Room, alongside active efforts to increase ICE detention in the state. This bill ensures that critical compliance mechanisms and enforcement tools governing corrections facilities in Maryland are also applicable to civil confinement. In the event of violations of these detention standards, HB 1018 authorizes the Attorney General to bring actions against private operators of such facilities and allows the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards to order the closure of facilities where life or health are endangered.



B. The federal administration’s ongoing mass detention and mass deportation agenda does not align with Maryland values.

In 2021, Maryland took the brave step of passing the Dignity not Detention Act (“DND”), restricting immigration detention in Maryland. At the time, ICE paid county jails in Howard, Worcester, and Frederick to incarcerate hundreds of non-citizens for civil, non-criminal immigration violations. DND not only mandated the termination of these contracts, but banned any new contracts or renewal of existing contracts with detention facilities operated wholly or in part by private corporations. Now, the federal government is aggressively ramping up its efforts to use all means necessary to purchase land itself for new facilities in Maryland. Given this context and the Baltimore Hold Room’s use as a de facto detention facility with cruel and inhumane conditions, it is critical that the state act now to establish minimum mandatory standards for any immigration detention, to prevent ICE’s further violations of human rights and the law.

C. HB 1018 properly reigns in unconstitutional immigration detention that imposes the equivalent of cruel and unusual punishment on Marylanders suspected of civil, non-criminal immigration violations.

Immigration detention is inherently traumatic. By law, immigration detention is considered civil and supposedly non-punitive. In practice, it is jail by another name, without criminal charges or convictions. Detainees wear color-coded prison-style uniforms and are monitored by guards constantly. There is no free movement. Access to the outdoor recreation yards is limited to a few hours a day. Detainees do not have access to free phone calls, much less the internet. Although the experience is indistinguishable from jail, our society operates under the legal fiction that because immigration detention is nominally civil and non-punitive, conditions are not governed by the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and thus, detainees do not have a right to a government-provided attorney. Instead they are left to fight their complex cases from behind bars, without access to the resources they need to argue their case, often fearing for their lives if they are deported.

The inherent trauma of detention is exacerbated by the deplorable conditions inside ICE detention centers and the context in which it is carried out. The entire country bore witness to the devastating and destructive practice of family separation under the Trump administration, with images and sounds of “kids in cages” inciting a popular uprising against the inhumane practices of our immigration enforcement machine. Victims of this abuse will never recover from the trauma they experienced - and Maryland was complicit in it, with several of those parents under ICE custody in Anne Arundel county, which contracted with ICE at the time.



D. ICE continues to subject Marylanders to egregious detention conditions and rights violations here in Maryland and across the country, making HB 1018 critical.

We highlighted the story of Kilmar Abrego Garcia in our testimony in support of the Dignity not Detention Act in 2021. We shared the trauma that he and his then-pregnant fiancée experienced when he was arrested by ICE and held at the Howard County jail for almost eight months until he eventually won his immigration case. As has been reported worldwide, Kilmar was whisked off the streets of Maryland in March 2025 and, without any opportunity for a hearing or notice, transferred to the Salvadoran Terrorism Confinement Center CECOT where he was beaten and held in inhumane conditions. Kilmar's story was unremarkable then, and sadly, it is unremarkable now. ICE's unlawful, mass detention and deportation operations have devastated and traumatized our immigrant community over the past year, with its impact reaching unprecedented levels today.

In our operation of the main ICE Raid Response Hotline in Maryland, CASA has received disturbing reports of abuse and rights violations of Marylanders arrested and detained in Maryland and beyond. Below are some of their stories, with pseudonyms used to protect their privacy.

Yolanda was detained by ICE on June 2, 2025 when she attended an appointment in Baltimore. ICE officers asked her to sign an immigration document. When she refused to sign, they hit her and held her hand and signed for her. She also reported suffering from an illness related to high blood pressure, yet ICE did not provide medication and refused to receive medication for her. They claimed being unable to provide prescription drugs to civil detainees, even if they were in receipt of the detainees' medical reports and prescriptions.

On June 12, 2025, *Arnoldo* was on his way to work when he was surrounded by 10 unmarked vehicles by a Seven Eleven in Prince George's County. In addition to the federal officers detaining him, they also went to his home to detain his brother and nephew that same day. In the Baltimore Hold Room, he reported having to remain standing in a cell with over forty people, with no food or proper bathroom access. They threatened him that if he did not sign a deportation order giving up his rights to due process, he would be sent to Africa or CECOT. He eventually relented and signed.

On September 16th, 2025, *Harold* was detained in Washington, D.C. while on his way to work from Maryland, beaten, and threatened with death. An officer told him "I don't like Guatemalans, and if I want to, I can shoot you in the head." After being detained, he was handcuffed for more than 24 hours without food or water. When given food, he and fellow detainees were still handcuffed at their hands and feet.



Jose was detained at an ICE check-in on September 29th, 2025 at Hopkins Plaza in Baltimore. He was transferred to a detention facility near the border, where he reports he was tortured for 8 hours over two days by as many as 12 immigration officers. They tied his hands, feet and mouth, beat him endlessly, and placed a bag over his head in an effort to make him state that he was from Mexico so that they could hand him over to Mexican officials. He also reported having gone 16 hours without food without required medication for his heart problems.

Ikenna, a Prince George’s County resident, asylum seeker and city government employee, was taken into ICE custody in April 2025 based on a meritless assault charge that never resulted in a conviction. Until the charges against him were dropped, he was held in inhumane ICE detention conditions in New Mexico. He reported that officers handcuffed him so tightly that they broke his wrist. The facility was overcrowded, with rooms designed for twenty people holding around fifty detainees. There were widespread leaks, and toilet water would enter the cafeteria. After his release, ICE has refused to even temporarily remove his ankle monitor so he may get an MRI to confirm the damage to his wrists.

While these individual stories are horrifying, it is even more disturbing to consider that they are merely examples of ICE abuses of power, excessive use of force, and cruelly punitive confinement that are now rampant across the nation. This has led to at least 29 deaths in ICE Custody in 2025 alone, the highest level of reported deaths in over two decades. States, including Maryland, have a critical responsibility at this time to uphold fundamental constitutional rights and protect the nation against a descent into authoritarianism.

It is important to note that these human rights abuses occur regardless of whether a state has dedicated long-term immigration detention facilities or merely temporary detention hold rooms. In an effort to comply with deportation quotas, immigration detention centers across the country are operating at maximum capacity and without oversight.

E. Maryland must do everything in our power to curb the ongoing human rights violations by ICE, protect our community and keep families together, and HB 1018 supports this effort.

Beyond amounting to cruel and unusual punishment, immigration detention tears families apart in ways that traumatize children and make us all less safe. It also disproportionately targets low-income workers who work backbreaking jobs in service of the U.S. economy. Below are additional stories from our members, with their privacy protected using pseudonyms, that highlight the terror ICE has been sowing in immigrant families right here in Maryland.



At 6am on November 1st, 2025, *Margot* woke up to make breakfast for her family in Baltimore. She was in the basement unit of a house with her family, including her brother. While Margot was cooking, she heard ICE officials knocking on the door. The people who live above them let them in and the officials came down the stairs. They pointed a gun at Margot and broke into her brother's room. They beat him and took him away.

On June 26, 2025, *Richard* was on his way to buy his daughter a birthday present when ICE violently detained him. We supported his partner, the mother left behind in Catonsville, whose two-year-old daughter was no longer able to celebrate her birthday with her father. On July 26, 2025, *Johannes* was surrounded by unmarked vehicles in front of a Home Depot along with about twenty-five other day laborers. ICE agents used these vehicles to block all exit points and detain them all. Johannes had entered as a child and was in the process of seeking asylum. On November 10, 2025, *Maria* was stopped for driving with expired license plates and thereafter detained by ICE. ICE had seemingly no consideration for alternatives to detention in light of her six children, who were left to be cared for by a neighbor.

These stories highlight the urgent need for additional measures limiting inhumane ICE detention in our state, as the effort to deport as many individuals as possible has resulted in tragic violence against community members who are fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters. An ill-informed quota-based system and the elimination of prosecutorial discretion have led to ICE going after anyone they can get their hands on and often detaining people in the middle of active status applications while leaving their children at risk of hunger and homelessness.

F. Maryland must continue to prohibit ICE from operating inhumane detention centers in our state and use every avenue to hold them accountable, and HB 1018 provides a critical avenue.

By extending minimum standards for carceral facilities to immigration detention and creating strong compliance and enforcement mechanisms, HB 1018 helps ensure Maryland does not become complicit in unsafe confinement conditions and rights violations. Overcrowding, lack of basic food and drink, and the absence of beds and proper medical care are not what Maryland stands for. Moreover, these conditions violate detainees' Fifth Amendment right to due process under the U.S. Constitution by subjecting civil detainees to punitive confinement conditions. HB 1018 creates accountability to protect against such rights violations. Its minimum mandatory standards address safety, including fire risks and risks to life, housing, and hygiene, maximum occupancy, food services, detainee classification, and proper recordkeeping, with audits, hearing opportunities and legal actions to address reported violations.



It is time for Maryland to put an end to any loopholes that allow civil, non-criminal detention facilities– which disproportionately target Black and Brown low-income, working-class communities–to escape minimum oversight and constitutional accountability.

For these reasons, CASA urges the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 1018.

HB1018 - 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 HB1018 to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The bill 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 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. 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 HB1018.

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.

HB 1018 FAV Del Stewart.pdf

Uploaded by: Vaughn Stewart

Position: FAV

VAUGHN STEWART
Legislative District 19
Montgomery County

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Government, Labor, and Elections
Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 1018
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards

Testimony by Delegate Vaughn Stewart
April 1, 2026 | Judicial Proceedings Committee

Overview of the Bill

When a locked custodial facility fails — whether through medical neglect, power loss, fire risk, or emergency breakdown — the consequences do not stay inside the fence line. They land on taxpayers, first responders, hospitals, and public infrastructure. HB1018 is designed to prevent those failures from becoming public emergencies and public expenses.

HB1018 is a public safety, operational readiness, and taxpayer protection bill. It strengthens Maryland's correctional standards framework to ensure that correctional facilities and immigration detention facilities located in the State are subject to meaningful standards, inspections, certifications, and enforcement mechanisms.

Why HB1018 Is Needed: Failures Externalize Costs To Taxpayers And Communities

When custodial facilities fail—medically, operationally, or in emergency preparedness—the consequences are not contained within facility walls. The costs shift to:

- **taxpayers** (liability, emergency procurement, overtime);
- **ratepayers** (utility upgrades and reliability risks);
- **local hospitals and EMS** (transport, guard details, capacity strain);
- **first responders** (fire/evacuation events, public-safety incidents).

Recent examples illustrate the stakes:

- **Catastrophic medical failure becomes a public cost event.** Scott County, Minnesota agreed to a \$12.2 million settlement after a man jailed for suspected DUI allegedly did not

receive timely medical care and later suffered severe medical consequences including amputations.

- **Detention and EMS costs can overwhelm budgets through overtime and staffing shortages.** Charleston County, South Carolina reported overtime spending at both its detention center and EMS surged by nearly \$4 million beyond budget limits, with detention officers working extended shifts and paramedics earning overtime exceeding base pay.
- **Utilities failures become immediate public-safety risks and trigger emergency public spending.** Platte County, Wyoming obtained \$150,000 in emergency money for a new jail backup generator after a failure left deputies unable to use cameras, communicate effectively, or control cell door locks during an outage.
- **Oversight findings and investigative reporting continue to document serious medical neglect risks in detention settings.** Senator Jon Ossoff’s investigation reported dozens of credible reports of medical neglect and inadequate access to basic necessities in immigration detention, underscoring the importance of enforceable oversight and reporting pathways.

These are not abstract policy concerns—they are examples of how weak standards and weak oversight convert into financial exposure and public-system strain.

What HB 1018 Does: Concrete, Enforceable “Readiness Gates”

HB1018 strengthens the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards’ role in advising on standards and coordinating with state and local partners. It also directs the Commission to implement inspections and certify compliance, including deadlines for remedial action and reinspection when facilities are out of compliance.

Most importantly for operational safety—and for preventing unfunded public burdens—HB1018 requires annual utility and emergency preparedness certification. Facilities must certify adequate and reliable utilities (including potable water, sewer, and electricity), functional HVAC, an emergency power system, and an emergency operations plan addressing utility disruptions, security breaches, fires, and medical emergencies. The facility must also provide supporting documentation and respond to additional information requests.

HB1018 creates real consequences for noncompliance. If a facility fails to submit the required certification or documentation, the Commission must treat the deficiency as life-threatening or health-endangering and order immediate cessation of operation or take other necessary protective action.

Additionally, HB1018 protects the integrity of inspections: owners, operators, managers, and employees may not impede inspections or audits. If they do, the Commission must order immediate cessation of operation.

Why The Committee Should Vote Favorably: Risk Management And Fiscal Responsibility

HB1018 is not a sitting veto and not a symbolic statement. It is a risk-management framework that:

- forces documentation of infrastructure readiness before emergencies happen;
- strengthens inspection and remediation pathways;
- prevents obstruction of oversight;
- reduces the likelihood that local hospitals, EMS, utilities, and taxpayers become the “backstop” when facilities cut corners.

By requiring custodial facilities to prove readiness and maintain emergency preparedness on the record, the bill helps ensure that operators internalize risks rather than shifting them onto the public.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1018.

HB1018 (SB0985)_fav_mascioli.pdf

Uploaded by: William Mascioli

Position: FAV

HB1018 (SB0985) - SUPPORT

William Mascioli
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1018 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards (SB0985)

April 1, 2026

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

My name is William Mascioli. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for more than 40 years. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I am writing to support HB1018 (SB0985) imposing mandatory minimum standards for immigration detention facilities.

Nelson Mandela once said that “no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.” By that standard, the United States must be judged very poorly. Conditions in immigrant detention facilities could best be described as cruel, dangerous, and dehumanizing. Reporting on the state of immigrant detention in Florida last July, Human Rights Watch found “conditions that flagrantly violate international human rights standards and the United States government’s own immigration detention standards.”

Conditions are so bad that ICE routinely and illegally denies lawmakers access for inspection without one week advance notice. Reports have emerged of physical and sexual abuse, extreme overcrowding, inadequate and sometimes spoiled food, a hazardous lack of hygiene, and extremely limited access to medical care or counsel. Advocates for immigrants had to obtain a temporary restraining order at one facility to get the administration to provide cots, rather than leave detained immigrants sleeping on the floor or plastic chairs. As of this writing, dozens have died under these conditions since Trump took office. And while dozens have died due to abuse and neglect, many more have suffered injuries and illness.

Soon after taking office last January, President Trump issued an executive order establishing a “no release” system drastically limiting the availability of release on bond for detained immigrants. Indeed, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act has enough funding to operate some 135,000 detention beds. This makes it particularly alarming that ICE admittedly determines who to target based on the color of their skin, the language they speak, or the places they work. Of the more than 3,300 people picked up by ICE in our state last year, the vast majority had no criminal convictions; more than half had never been charged. And it’s only getting worse: a new report by the American Immigration Council states that the increasing use of “at large” arrests in American communities has led to a sharp increase in the number of people with no criminal record being held in ICE custody on any given day.

In short, the Trump administration has created a situation in which individuals can be detained based on profiling and swept into indefinite detention in subhuman conditions, with almost no recourse or remedy. Maryland should not be a party to such a system. This bill would at least provide for basic detention standards in such centers that exist in the state. I therefore urge a favorable report and thank you for your consideration.

HB1018 MD Psychiatric Society.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Hanson

Position: FWA

March 30, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support With Amendment: HB1018/SB985 -- immigration detention and mandatory minimum standards

Dear Chairman Smith & Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS/WPS represent over 1200 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

The Maryland Psychiatric Society and Washington Psychiatric Societies support this bill to ensure that immigration detention facilities are held to the same humane standards as correctional facilities. Our organizations supervise and train psychiatrists who work in state jails and prisons. One aspect of this bill poses a risk to this training and may unintentional undermine the intent of this bill. Specifically, it creates a mandatory reporting duty for any physician who knows of a security breach or violation of "mandatory minimum standards" as defined by regulations. Failure to report creates a basis for potential board discipline. This would have a chilling effect on physician recruitment and training efforts. Mandatory reporting could also constitute a violation of HIPAA and state patient privacy laws, and could endanger patient safety if the prison or detainee reporter is identified as a cooperating witness.

These issues are easily corrected through the following amendments:

See page 6 line 28 through page 7 line 5:

(2) AN INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO THIS SUBSECTION ~~SHALL~~ MAY REPORT TO THE COMMISSION:

(I) A VIOLATION OF THE MINIMUM MANDATORY STANDARDS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS REASON TO BELIEVE HAS BEEN COMMITTED BY A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY OR AN IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITY; AND

(II) A KNOWN BREACH OF THE SECURITY OF A SYSTEM OF A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

OR AN IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITY.

See page 7 lines 6-10:

~~(3) IF THE REGULATING BODY FOR A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR A CERTIFIED SECURITY GUARD DETERMINES THAT AN INDIVIDUAL HAS FAILED TO SUBMIT A REPORT IN VIOLATION OF PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE LICENSING BODY SHALL TAKE APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION.~~

To conclude, MPS and WPS support the intent of HB1018, but believe our suggested amendments strike the right balance between the need to provide humane care to correctional or immigrant patients and the need to enforce minimum constitutional standards. MPS and WPS ask the committee for a favorable report on HB1018.

If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact MPS lobbyist, Lisa Harris Jones at lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Maryland Psychiatric Society & Washington Psychiatric Society
Legislative Action Committee

Oppose SB 985_HB 1018 – Correctional Services - Co

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

Oppose SB 985/HB 1018 – Correctional Services - Correctional Facilities and Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing as a concerned resident of Maryland to strongly oppose **SB 985/HB 1018**.

Immigration detention and enforcement are exclusively federal responsibilities under the U.S. Constitution and federal law. The Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) already operate under comprehensive federal standards, oversight, and inspection requirements for civil immigration detainees. **Maryland's attempt to layer additional state-level mandates creates unnecessary duplication, potential public safety threats, and increased costs for taxpayers.**

My main concerns with this bill include:

- **Federal preemption:** State regulation of federal immigration detention facilities risks interfering with national immigration policy and enforcement priorities, creating threats to public safety.
- **Added costs and bureaucracy:** Imposing new mandatory standards, inspections, reporting, and enforcement on facilities in Maryland will raise operational expenses that ultimately burden state and local taxpayers without improving public safety.
- **Political motivation over practicality:** This bill appears designed more to hinder or discourage immigration detention in Maryland than to address genuine gaps in care. Federal facilities and contractors must already meet rigorous national standards for health, safety, food service, sanitation, and detainee rights.

Maryland should focus on its core responsibilities — public safety, education, and fiscal responsibility — rather than inserting itself into federal immigration matters through burdensome regulations that could undermine enforcement of federal law, creating threats to public safety.

I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 1018** and vote against its passage.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns with this important public safety legislation.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals