

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable  
HB630 - Public Safety – Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities –  
Original Design and Construction  
Judiciary Committee  
March 11, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jean Montgomery, I am a resident of Olney, MD, and I **strongly urge** the committee to **pass HB0630**.

I **support HB0630** because current Maryland law creates loopholes that allow private companies to obtain approvals on detention centers without the proper zoning requirements. Buildings utilized to house goods are being bought to detain human beings with no regard for whether they have the correct infrastructure to safely and humanely do so. Given the [human rights abuses we are seeing at the Baltimore Fallon Center](#), there is a clear need to develop laws that will enforce basic health and safety standards on building operations. Private sellers, like the one in Williamsport, MD, have an interest in selling their operations as quickly as possible. For health and safety reasons, facilities originally built to be utilized to house goods or services should not be able to be repurposed into correctional facilities. This law aims to prohibit individuals from operating sites as correctional facilities when the original purpose of the site was not intended to be a correctional facility.

I **strongly and forcefully condemn ICE**, and the illegal, brutal, and fatal tactics they utilize to illegally search, seize, transport and imprison human beings in unsafe, unsanitary, and over-crowded facilities. While I recognize that it is important to have immigration policies that both compassionately grant lawful asylum and secures borders, ICE is not currently doing either. Instead, they are mass deporting immigrants, regardless of their actual status, to fulfill quotas set by Stephen Miller. I have a family member who almost died in a cramped, concentrated, prisoner of war, re-education camp. Through the Grace of God and asylum law, he was able to escape and seek refuge in Maryland, becoming a contributing member of our society, active pillar in Our Lady of Vietnam Parish, supporting medical technology in several area hospitals, and raising several family members who become business owners and job creators themselves.

I shudder to think what has become of our asylum and immigration system today. Our tax dollars are currently being spent to concentrate human beings the Executive Branch does not value, despite our Constitution recognizing the civil rights and liberties granted to ALL PERSONS residing in our country. I do not want our country nor our state to be involved in violations of Constitutional rights, human rights, and crimes against humanity. Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, especially those who are detained or incarcerated. For the reasons stated in this testimony, I respectfully but **urgently petition you to return a favorable report on HB0630**.

Thank you,

Jean Montgomery, District 14 voter.