

Amy C. Parks

6133 Margarita Way • Frederick, MD 21703 • parksamy1@gmail.com

DATE: February 16, 2026

TO: Chair, House Judiciary Committee, Maryland House of Delegates

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 0630 – Correctional Services Immigration Detention Facilities – Original Design and Construction

Dear Chair and Members of the Maryland House Judiciary Committee:

As a concerned citizen of the state of Maryland, I am offering this testimony in support of House Bill 630. The recent actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are nothing short of appalling. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has unleashed an attack on the American people, and it covers up its inexcusable acts of violence with flagrant lies. These agencies have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are unethical, untrustworthy, and unaccountable. Make no mistake – what we are witnessing is ethnic cleansing. And it's only a matter of time before it comes to Maryland.

Under the current administration, the federal government has found every possible means of abusing its power. The purchase of the property in Williamsport was underhanded and deliberately hidden from public scrutiny. This facility does not have the infrastructure to serve as a detention center. But based on examples we have seen elsewhere in the nation – including Baltimore – this is of no concern to DHS. The inhumane conditions in its detention centers have been witnessed, verified, and well documented. In an environment where our federal government shows no respect for its constituents or the rule of law, the state of Maryland must take measures to protect all people within its borders. It must take steps to prevent the proliferation of human warehouses that serve the DHS goal of deporting large numbers of people of color - often unlawfully, violently, with no due process, and in violation of their civil rights.

For some state delegates, it may be tempting to believe that such a center out in western Maryland has little impact on their jurisdictions. Guess again. This facility will not only bring economic and societal harm to Hagerstown. It will serve as a support facility for extended ICE actions across Maryland. If DHS can conduct a raid in Wilder, Idaho (population 1,725) – turning a horse track into a war zone, brandishing guns, zip-tying children, and detaining hundreds of people without probable cause – it can happen here. None of us, from our westernmost border to the Eastern Shore, will be safe for long.

The time has come for us to decide where we stand. That we cannot trust the intentions and actions of the federal government in this matter is well proven. Do what you must to protect my fellow Marylanders, my neighbors, and me. History will remember us for the choices we make now. Thank you for faithfully representing the interests of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Amy Parks