

Testimony
HB630 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Original Design and Construction
Favorable Report

To: Del. Sandy Bartlett, Chair, and members of the Judiciary Committee
From: Adrienne Betancourt, District 16, Bethesda, Montgomery County
Date: March 11, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in FAVOR of **HB 630 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction**
I encourage your committee to deliver a favorable report.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has a documented history of inhumane treatment, inadequate medical care, and unsafe conditions that have put the lives of detained immigrants at risk (including many who have been following due process paths to formal legal status, and some already holding green cards or citizenship.).

My faith, which I share with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across the state, affirms that every human being should be treated with respect and dignity, no matter their status. The inhumane treatment of immigrant detainees is anathema to these values. It makes me sick to think of more popping up in Washington County, and after that.

As argued by many state legislature delegates throughout the state of Maryland, the decision to welcome these centers is a highly immoral and dangerous decision that affects us all, not for a particular locality or property owner to decide. It is a state-wide issue of grave concern.

Please halt the retrofitting of warehouses into more ICE detention centers in our state.

I encourage the committee to vote favorably on **HB 630**.

Thank you.