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**DATE:** February 16, 2026

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

**RE:** Testimony in Support of House Bill [HB 0630] Correctional Services Immigration Detention Facilities- Original Design and Construction

Dear Chair and members of the Maryland House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Katie Dix. In 2024, my family moved back to Maryland to be closer to family. We settled in Williamsport; we wanted to make this place home for a growing family. Now, I find myself deeply troubled and concerned as Washington County fails to oppose the inhumane and unconstitutional actions of ICE.

Masked ICE officers have violently violated the constitutional rights of citizens. Their actions go unchecked and continue to escalate. The proposed ICE detention facility will impact the safety of our community, local infrastructure, and quality of life. It will allow this inhumane and un-American activity to persist.

Since January, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has spent \$631.3 million on warehouses across America. Originally built to store consumer goods, these structures are now being converted to hold people. We know the reality of these warehouses: how DHS has subjected human beings to intolerable and inhumane conditions. Citizens and non-citizens alike have the right to be treated with dignity here in our state. We must affirm this.

Maryland failed to stop the purchase in Washington County because we had no warning. The sale was finalized without public notice. By the time the community learned of it, the transaction was complete. DHS paid \$102.4 million for a warehouse with no plumbing, electrical systems, or water infrastructure required for human habitation. House Bill 630 responds to this bypass.

I believe Maryland must maintain standards to protect human dignity. Working in tandem with the Dignity Not Detention Act, HB 630 ensures that any facility — federal or private — meets basic human habitation standards. It prevents Maryland from becoming a staging ground for “makeshift” prisons that fail the minimum standards of decency. This is not a radical proposal. It is a defense of fundamental human rights.

Sincerely,

Katie Dix

