



Catonsville Indivisible Group

Support for House Bill 630

Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Original Design and Construction

My name is Susan Radke and co-lead the Catonsville Indivisible Group, a grassroots group of constituents living in in Southwest Baltimore County. This group is dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values as well as upholding our United States Constitutional rights. The Catonsville Indivisible Group and I support HB630 which “prohibits a person from operating an immigration detention facility at a building, structure, or facility that was not originally designed and constructed for the purpose of housing or detaining individuals; and generally relating to immigration detention”.

I live in an immigrant community near empty office buildings where leasing signs are displayed. Knowing these buildings could be used as detention centers and or other ICE activity centers is alarming because these ICE facilities violate human rights. My community is on high alert and quite frightened as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) commit unlawful raids that violate our fourth and fifth Amendment rights. My neighbors reside here legally, pay taxes, own homes, have work permits, and green cards. However, ICE is unlawfully abducting immigrants regardless of citizen status.

DHS/ICE bought a warehouse in Washington County, Hagerstown MD and it **must not** become a detention center in this State where immigrants are terrorized and abused. The DHS is spending 113 million dollars to convert the warehouse in Washington County into a concentration camp. Currently, detention center conditions are unsanitary, overcrowded with immigrants either packed in small areas, or within large chain link fences. Some sleep on floors and others sleep on stacked beds for three people. Reports include broken toilets, poor, moldy worm-infested food, no access to medical care as well as physical and sexual abuse. Videos and pictures of these conditions are so reminiscent of concentration camps from the Holocaust. Legionella bacteria are found in the Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore where our immigrants are detained. Due to these deplorable conditions, thirty-five deaths occurred in 2025, and so far in 2026, at least seven people died.

The Catonsville Indivisible Group and I strongly oppose any warehouse or building being used as a detention center or other activity, and urge you to pass this emergency House Bill 630 protecting our immigrant neighbors in Maryland.

Susan Radke, Co-lead Catonsville Indivisible Group