

TESTIMONY FOR HB0630/Favorable
Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities
Original Design and Construction
Committee: House Judiciary
Hearing Date: March 11

HB0630 prohibits the use of buildings not originally designed for detention—such as warehouses or industrial spaces—as immigration detention facilities. This protection is urgently needed.

Across the country, there have been efforts to convert warehouses into large-scale detention centers. These improvised facilities lack the basic conditions necessary for humane treatment, including adequate ventilation, sanitation, medical care, and oversight. Holding people in such spaces—especially children or parents separated from their families—is unacceptable.

Maryland has already seen proposals to create these kinds of facilities. The Department of Homeland Security has purchased a warehouse in Washington County for a proposed 1,500-bed processing center, with support from local officials. In contrast, Howard County revoked permits for a similar project and moved to prohibit privately operated detention facilities altogether.

HB0630 provides the clarity Maryland needs. It prevents a patchwork of local decisions and establishes a statewide standard that warehouse-style detention centers will not operate here.

Maryland should speak with one voice: detention facilities that compromise safety, dignity, and basic human standards have no place in our state. I urge a **favorable report on HB0630**.

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