

HB630

UNF

Heather Skinner Constantine

*201 Blenheim Road, Baltimore, MD 21212
Heatherconstantine1@gmail.com*

I am providing this testimony to speak out against 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. This is simply inhumane. We have trusted the federal government to handle illegal immigrants with dignity and humanity, and they have shown, time and time again, that they are either completely incompetent or they lack empathy for others. I understand that these immigrants are here illegally and have broken the law, but DHS is locking up people regardless of their citizenship status. I think about all the kids in these facilities who will be traumatized for the rest of their lives. I worry about the sexual abuse that likely goes on in these facilities, committed by guards or other immigrants. I have looked up the public records of some of the ICE agents and some have committed sexual crimes. DHS is dangerous, not the immigrants.

If these people (immigrants) are all really as dangerous as DHS says, then why are there kids locked up with them? I worry about the family who came here to flee a dangerous country; they wanted the best for their children, and now they are locked up in a facility, after they traversed the Darien Gap with their children on their backs.

Immigrants are not a threat to us. The majority are hard-working families who are willing to do the jobs Americans do not want to do. They pick our fruit and work on our construction. We need them for our economy. If America is really concerned about illegal immigrants, then the US needs to come up with a better system of counting these individuals so that they can pay taxes. Or come up with a system where employers can vouch for these individuals. Locking families up is not the American way; it is embarrassing for our nation.