

As a proud Maryland resident, I support HB 630, which prohibits the establishment of mass detention warehouse facilities in our beautiful state.

I have lived in the Free State for 65 of my 68 years. When my family moved to Maryland, my father took a job at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt. My mother went to work for Prince George's County Schools. Both worked in those public service jobs until they retired. I am a mother, a grandmother, and, recently, a great-grandmother. Almost all of my babies live in Maryland.

Two reminders:

1. Being undocumented is a civil violation, not a crime.
2. Children are not supposed to be in a detention center for more than 20 days. (Having to type those words is, in itself, a moral injury.)

I have many concerns about a concentration camp in my state. Too hyperbolic a phrase for you? Wikipedia defines a concentration camp as "a facility used for the internment of political prisoners, or politically targeted demographics, such as members of national or ethnic minority groups, on the grounds of national security, or for exploitation or punishment." I would urge everyone to study the history of such facilities, including the Indian Boarding schools and Japanese-American internment camps in America, the Chilean prisons of the Pinochet regime, where many people were tortured and disappeared. and, of course, the Holocaust.

It is not clear which for-profit company will manage this proposed concentration camp, nor have I been able to determine if this facility is intended to be utilized for incarcerating families, or, more specifically, children. This opacity appears to be by design.

To those who wish to make money caging humans, including children, I say this: You want to use our state to make money from trafficking humans, and you believe children are fair game. I have no desire to be complicit in your disgusting, morally bankrupt scheme.

Consider [this ProPublica article](#)¹ about the living conditions endured by children and families imprisoned at the infamous Dilley concentration camp in Texas, managed by CoreCivic. At the time of publication, there was a 2-month-old infant at Dilley, too young to be vaccinated against many of the diseases that can run rampant in crowded conditions. Recent reporting shows that he and his family have been deported. [Reports](#) of spoiled, moldy, and insect-infested food, inadequate or non-existent medical care, lack of sanitation, outbreaks of disease, forced labor, and physical and sexual abuse² are predictably coming to light in established centers. There have

¹<https://www.propublica.org/article/life-inside-ice-dilley-children>

²

[https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/detained-immigrants-detail-physical-abuse-and-inhumane-conditions-at-largest-immigration-detention-center-in-the-u- s](https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/detained-immigrants-detail-physical-abuse-and-inhumane-conditions-at-largest-immigration-detention-center-in-the-u-s)

been reports of COVID, tuberculosis, measles, mumps, and other pathogens in such facilities. When the inevitable outbreak occurs, will there be enough beds available in nearby hospitals?

The psychological trauma on people and their communities will last for generations. I am not a child psychiatrist, but I don't need to be one to know what being incarcerated can do to a child. ProPublica [Seized Art, Eavesdropping Guards: Parents Describe a Clampdown at Dilley Detention Center as Kids Shared Their Stories](#)³ now reports that the children's letters, drawings, and art supplies have been confiscated. Why do they not want us to see them?

CoreCivic is one of the companies that profits from caging human beings. At the company's shareholder meeting on February 12, 2026, the investors expressed concern about meeting projections falling short of the targeted 100,000 human beings they hoped to be paid to imprison. It seems that ICE is not kidnapping enough people for their profit margins. Another company profiting from the imprisonment of human beings is GEO Group. From their shareholder meeting, also on February 12, 2026: "GEO Group had 6000 beds primarily at six former federal prisons, Zoley, the CEO said. At full capacity, the beds would generate more than \$300 million each year. Zoley said the company is also considering contracting with ICE to retrofit and manage commercial warehouses that the agency plans to convert into immigration facilities." Ice director Todd Lyons wants to see a 'system run like Prime, but with human beings. ' At least he called them human beings.

Chilling.

⁴Using a term like "beds" instead of "human beings" is a common tactic used by authoritarian regimes to dehumanize their victims. What happens when they run out of migrants to detain? Will the people who open these privately owned, for-profit prisons simply close up shop when there are no more migrants to fill beds? Decide for yourself.

In her 1963 work, [Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil](#), Hannah Arendt said, "great evils are committed not by fanatical monsters, but by ordinary, thoughtless individuals conforming to bureaucratic systems." Speaking about the infamous Nazi's trial, she highlights how failing to think critically and blindly following orders allows mundane people to commit horrific acts.⁵ Survivors of the Holocaust are [warning us](#)⁶ not to go down this path. Will we listen?

Make no mistake - these companies and ICE are part of the same club. Those thuggish bounty hunters work for the private prison industry that needs ICE to supply them with a steady stream

³ <https://www.propublica.org/article/dilley-detention-center-kids-art-removal>

⁴ <https://theappeal.org/ice-geo-group-corecivic-profits/>

⁵ https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/52090.Eichmann_in_Jerusalem

⁶ [Holocaust Survivor Has Strong Words For ICE Director, Sheriff At Immigration Forum](#)

of human bodies on which to profit. We have all witnessed the ends to which these masked agents will go to hunt their prey and their payday, in the tradition of KKK night riders. Smashing car windows, rappelling from helicopters to terrorize children in the dead of night, doors kicked in, flashbangs deployed at peaceful protesters, teargas thrown into cars full of children and near school bus stops, the man dragged across the pavement by his neck after his eye has been gouged out (permanently blinding it), a faith leader shot in the face with pepperballs, the horrifying image of the bloody airbag in Renee's car, the blatant, public execution of Alex, and the infuriating, arrogant impunity of these thugs and DHS leadership. The people of Minneapolis and other communities have suffered terribly because of the greed and cruelty of corporate headhunters.

We are being told - not asked, told - that we have no choice other than to be complicit in their human trafficking enterprise. History teaches us that they will need more bodies to keep their investment profitable. We all heard the occupant of the Oval Office refer to "home grown" as future targets for detainment.

Since ICE ignores the United States Constitution, the lack of due process has resulted in a backlog of habeas cases and not enough judges to hear them. This is good news for CoreCivic and GeoGroup. The longer our Constitution and due process are ignored, the more money they can harvest from the American taxpayer.

I won't recite the [Niemöller](#)⁷ poem; we all know it by now.

bring the stain of this moral obscenity to our home.

The people of Maryland deserve to have a say in whether we want to imprison humans who are simply undocumented and have not committed crimes, including children and I say NO.

Anne Flaherty

⁷ <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/martin-niemoeller-first-they-came-for-the-socialists>