

Laura Walsh
3409 Keswick Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21211
(410) 200-8017
Laura.ann.taylor95@gmail.com
March 9, 2026

Dear Delegate Bartlett, Delegate Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB0630 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction.

Locating detention facilities in buildings not intended for housing humans poses myriad environmental, health, and safety issues including:

- Impacts to our waterways. Increased sewage volume threatens ecologically sensitive areas.
- Impacts to local air quality. The additional traffic from trucks and buses carrying a continuous flow of detainees, plus the car trips from family members and lawyers exercising their rights to visit detainees, will likely result in an exponential increase in vehicular traffic, adversely affecting air quality.
- Impacts on local health facilities. DHS's other detention camps have had confirmed sewage problems, unsanitary conditions, and measles outbreaks. Similar sanitary conditions in a facility which does not have sufficient bathrooms and water fountains may result in outbreaks that threaten public health.
- Impacts to local security. Any road closures required by the facility will adversely impact the safety of the local community, by limiting the accessibility of emergency services.

In addition to the adverse impacts noted above, I believe Maryland has a responsibility to protect its immigrant residents from the unjust treatment immigrant Americans are currently facing from the federal government. Disallowing detention facilities in unsafe buildings is one facet of that responsibility.

Sincerely,
Laura Walsh