

February 18, 2026

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**TESTIMONY ON HB 630 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction

**TO:** Chairperson J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair Debra Davis and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Elisabet Eppes

**OPENING: My name is Elisabet Eppes. I am a resident of District 43A. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB630 for the prevention of using existing buildings to build ICE detention centers.**

I am a public health professional and I care deeply about the health and well-being of all Maryland residents. I support this bill because it protects Maryland communities by ensuring that detention centers aren't created in ordinary buildings not designated to safely house detainees.

This bill promotes transparency and public input before any such facilities are proposed. It also prevents state support for privately operated detention facilities where conditions are likely to violate detainees' basic rights to safety and dignity. It is the state's duty to protect our basic rights to health and safety. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB 630.**