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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0309, Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests -  
Limitations

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TO: Chair J. Sandy Bartlett & Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Ayla Hurley

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Ayla Hurley, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB 0309, to put limitations on Stops, Detentions, and Arrests at Judicial Facilities.

I beg you to humor me as I provide an apt analogy for the practice of detaining and arresting people outside of Judicial Facilities. In video games, there exists a fixed point where one's characters appear. In competitive games, there is a derogatory term for players who wait at these points in order to defeat other players without resistance, as soon as they appear, simply because it's known that they *will* exist there. We call them "campers." While not technically cheating, it is widely considered a cheap tactic that goes against the spirit of the game, employed by players without imagination or respect for the gameplay as designed.

In this vernacular, and far more grave an offense against humanity than mere games, law enforcement (federal or otherwise) camping at the very judicial centers required for immigrants' *constitutional right of due process* grossly exceeds "going against the spirit" of the Constitution! We have heard of immigrants detained and hauled away *while actively trying to ensure* their presence in the United States is legal and following the appropriate process. It is unacceptable, inhumane, and outrageous that these tactics are being used to pad the arbitrary "progress" quota of an anti-immigration regime. This renders the entire process moot, and tells immigrant members of our community that following the lawful procedures doesn't matter, their mere presence is disallowed, because law enforcement acting in bad faith need to meet their round-up quota. It is a sickening practice and must be stopped.

I urge you to support HB 0309. Help ensure that anyone doing their due diligence to be in our country, through the very procedures set up for them to do so, be protected to do just that.