

**HB 630:** Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 630** during committee consideration or floor votes.

This bill is unnecessary, harmful to public safety, and fiscally shortsighted. Federal immigration enforcement—including detention of individuals who have committed serious crimes, pose national security risks, are fugitives, or have final removal orders—is a lawful federal responsibility. Maryland counties and facilities have long cooperated with ICE through intergovernmental service agreements, providing secure housing in existing, purpose-built jails that meet or exceed federal standards. These partnerships **generate significant revenue for local governments, help fund county operations, and ensure dangerous individuals are not released into Maryland communities.**

Prohibiting the use of existing correctional facilities for short-term immigration detention forces ICE to either release more detainees into the state (**increasing risks to residents**) or transport them hundreds of miles away—**at greater cost to taxpayers** and with higher escape/absconding risks. Banning conversions also prevents cost-effective, humane solutions and ignores the reality that many county jails already have appropriate medical, visitation, and segregation capabilities for short-term immigration custody.

**This legislation prioritizes symbolic resistance to federal immigration enforcement over practical public safety, local revenue, and efficient use of existing infrastructure. Maryland should not unilaterally obstruct federal law enforcement or create incentives for the release of criminal aliens into our communities.**

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against HB 630.**

Thank you for your attention to this important public safety and fiscal responsibility issue.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals