

**Testimony on HB 0630: Correctional Services-Immigration Detention Facilities-Original Design and Construction
Judiciary Committee**

Hearing Date 4-11-2016

Position:Favorable

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Committee,

My name is Deborah Shulman and I am a 32-year resident of Olney, MD. **I strongly urge the committee to pass HB0630.**

I support this bill because current Maryland law creates loopholes that allow private companies to obtain approvals on detention centers without proper zoning requirements.

Buildings such as warehouses aren't designed to house human beings. There is no regard for infrastructure. These buildings will be warehouses for humans without concern for safety or the environment.

Given the Human Rights abuses we are seeing at the Fallon Center in Baltimore and in detention facilities across the country these buildings aren't designed to house people. There is concern for water, sanitation or the design safety. I believe the Department of Homeland Security really doesn't care and we the people should.

Basic Human Rights are being taken away

Private sellers, like the one in Williamsport, MD, have an interest in selling their operations as quickly as possible. For health and safety reasons, facilities originally built to be utilized for goods and services should not be repurposed into correctional facilities. These facilities will impact the water and sanitation services of residents. These buildings will be overcrowded and unhealthy.

Our immigrants do not deserve this. If my immigrant family was sent to these facilities. What has happened to our humanity and caring for our neighbors. They do us no harm and here we will be allowing them to be sent to places not fit for human beings to be housed.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings. The rights of the detained, incarcerated and the people who work in these facilities should be protected. For these reasons stated in this testimony, I respectfully and strongly urge a favorable report on HB0630.

Thank You,
Deborah Shulman