



**Testimony on House Bill 630 – Favorable**

**HB630 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**March 11, 2026**

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

Indivisible HoCoMD offers favorable testimony in support of HB630 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, Indivisible HoCoMD has more than 1,800 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. There are 49 Indivisible chapters in Maryland and over 2,500 nationwide.

HB630 prohibits the operation of an immigration detention facility at a building, structure, or facility that was not originally designed and constructed for that purpose. Current Maryland law has loopholes that allow private companies to obtain approvals on detention centers without the proper zoning requirements.

Human beings should not be detained in warehouses meant to hold goods and packages. We have already seen significant human rights abuses in facilities *designed* for detention, for example, the Fallon Center. It is very likely that private companies hired to retrofit warehouses will prioritize cost-savings over safe living conditions for detainees. It is also likely that there will be little oversight of the construction of these new detention facilities to ensure that health and safety regulations are followed.

Maryland has a choice. We can implement laws to protect the health, safety, and dignity of all people or we can turn our backs and ignore human right abuses and overt cruelty in our own state.

For these reasons, Indivisible HoCoMD calls for a FAVORABLE response to HB630.

Laurie Liskin (on behalf of Indivisible HoCoMD)

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