

**Testimony Supporting HB0630  
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities –  
Original Design and Construction**

**FAVORABLE**

March 9, 2026

The Honorable Chair, Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair Delegate Debra Davis, and esteemed members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to ask you to vote in support of House Bill 630 (HB0630). This bill would help promote the health and safety of immigrants and other individuals detained in the course of immigration enforcement proceedings.

For over a year, immigrants and watchdog groups [have reported poor conditions within detention facilities](#), including medical mistreatment and neglect, inadequate nutrition, unsanitary conditions, and overcrowding. Detainees are reportedly being held at these facilities [longer than they should be, and without adequate oversight](#). Fueled by over \$45 million in funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention as part of the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” immigration experts say the ICE detention system has [“grown larger, more abusive, and more opaque than ever as the Trump administration rushes to detain ever-greater numbers of immigrants as part of its mass deportation push.”](#) The rush to acquire and develop detention facilities nationwide has created financial incentives for private entities such as warehouse owners to sell properties to the government for profit. We have already seen this occurring in [Maryland](#).

By preventing immigrant detention operations from being conducted in buildings not originally designed and constructed for that purpose, Maryland would reduce the likelihood that such facilities in the state would be harmful and dangerous to detainees. Converting warehouses without adequate plumbing, electrical, heating/air conditioning, and wastewater systems could lead to dangerous conditions for human housing. The facility design must meet established standards with respect to the number of people who can be housed there, and requirements proportionate to its size. There are also environmental impacts from changing a warehouse into a detention facility that must be considered, such as effects on the adjacent property and surrounding community.

We cannot allow for-profit entities and the federal government to rush the process at the expense of human health and safety. The measures proposed in HB0630 are a reasonable safety check which should be added to the process.

For these reasons, I urge your favorable report on HB0630.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melinda Littell  
Arnold, D33C