

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0630, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention  
Facilities - Original Design and Construction**

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

March 11, 2026

Chair Bartlett and members of the House Judiciary Committee: My name is Anne Manuel. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for more than 40 years. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I am writing to support HB0630, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction.

The Washington Post revealed on Feb. 14 that ICE plans to spend \$38 billion to retrofit warehouses and other sites for immigration detention centers. *Thirty-eight billion dollars is the equivalent of the combined budgets of 22 states.* HB0630 would help prevent the establishment of immigrant concentration camps in Maryland.

At this point, it has been well established that ICE is not detaining “the worst of the worst.” Instead, ICE is making sweeping arrests based on skin color, language spoken, place of employment, and even showing up as legally required for one’s immigration hearings. Once detained, our neighbors have little recourse or remedy.

I’ll leave it to the academics to determine whether or not our current political moment qualifies as an “authoritarian breakthrough” or a kind of neo-fascism. But we have gotten to the point where comparisons to the early days of Hitler’s Germany no longer seem far-fetched. Historian Heather Cox Richardson recently included this haunting account by a citizen speaker at a February 3rd meeting of the Surprise, Arizona City Council, as it considered establishment of a vast immigration detention center in their community. The speaker rose to remind the council about the liberation by U.S. troops of the Ohrdruf Nazi concentration camp on April 4, 1945:

*“The U.S. Army brought the leading citizens of Ohrdruf to tour the facility, which turned out to be part of the Buchenwald network of concentration camps. A U.S. Army colonel told the German civilians who viewed the scenes without muttering a word that they were to blame. One of the Germans replied that what happened in the camp was ‘done by a few people,’ and ‘you cannot blame us all.’ And the American, who could have been any one of our grandfathers, said: ‘This was done by those that the German people chose to lead them, and all are responsible.’*

*“The morning after the tour, the mayor of Ohrdruf killed himself. And maybe he did not know the full extent of the outrages that were committed in his community, but he knew enough. And we don’t know exactly how ICE will use this warehouse. But we know enough. I ask you to consider what the mayor of Ohrdruf might have thought before he died. Maybe he felt like a victim. He might have thought, ‘How is this my fault? I had no jurisdiction over this.’ Maybe he would have said, ‘This site was not subject to local zoning, what could I do?’ But I think, when he reflected on the suffering that occurred at this camp, just outside of town, that those words would have sounded hollow even to him. Because in his heart he knew, as we do, that we are all responsible for what happens in our community.”*

[https://beathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/february-7-2026?selection=c54fcfe3-364c-4add-bba7-21c925279bc9&r=6xoym&utm\\_medium=ios&triedRedirect=true#:~:text=On%20Tuesday%2C%20February%203%2C%20more%20than%20a%20thousand%20people%20turned%20out%20for%20the%20Surprise%20City%20Council%20meeting%20to%20oppose%20the%20establishment%20of%20the%20federal%20detention%20center](https://beathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/february-7-2026?selection=c54fcfe3-364c-4add-bba7-21c925279bc9&r=6xoym&utm_medium=ios&triedRedirect=true#:~:text=On%20Tuesday%2C%20February%203%2C%20more%20than%20a%20thousand%20people%20turned%20out%20for%20the%20Surprise%20City%20Council%20meeting%20to%20oppose%20the%20establishment%20of%20the%20federal%20detention%20center)

We Marylanders are responsible for what takes place in our community. We do not want ICE concentration camps here. HB0630 is an important step in the right direction. Thank you for your consideration.

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