

Andrew Lewis

685 Winding Stream Way, Odenton Maryland, 21113

District 21

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

2/18/2026

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

FROM: Andrew Lewis

Chair Bartlett and members of the committee, I urge you to support HB0630, which will prevent the use of existing buildings from being converted into detention centers that were not built to be so.

It's no secret that privately owned prisons are not renowned for their living conditions or treatment of their prisoners. Be they inmates or detainees, private companies' singular goal is profit. We have seen the level of greed that leads to gross negligence of sufficient food, sleeping quarters, and medical care provisioned by the prison complex. No converted warehouse can humanely hold detainees. If they could, we would be unable to trust that the human agents in charge of such facilities would put the welfare of their charges above profit.

Maryland's Dignity Not Detention Act was a major step towards supporting our immigrant communities, but federal agencies are finding loopholes to further their inhumane agendas. They continue to keep detainees in unconscionable conditions, in buildings that not only weren't meant to hold people in that way, but also not at such capacity. This bill would help prevent the misuse of existing structures from being turned into something it can't support.

I urge the committee to support HB0630.

Thank you,

Andrew