

HB 630 FAV

Judiciary Committee

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

As a resident of neighboring Frederick County, I am concerned what's going on in Washington County regarding bringing an immigrant detention center to the community. County commissioners and representatives in the state house should protect and respect its citizens. Washington County residents are neither protected nor respected when county leadership adds a detention center to the community without hearing and appropriately responding to the objections of its citizens.

I don't share the contention that all our immigrants are criminals and deserve to be detained and deported. Due process and individual rights must be protected. There is ample evidence of violations of rights and due process across the country during immigration enforcement activity. These violations are likely to continue related to a warehouse detention center in Washington County. This is NOT how Maryland should be responding to immigration enforcement.

HB 630 prohibits a person from operating an immigration detention facility at a building, structure, or facility that was not originally designed and constructed for the purpose of housing or detaining individuals. A favorable report will move Maryland forward toward protecting due process and immigrant rights by preventing the establishment of detention centers in locations that are unsuitable for humanitarian care of detainees.

I urge a favorable report.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Maryrose Wilson

12102 Coppermine Road

Union Bridge MD 21791