

In support of HB 630

I support passage of HB 630, which states, "Prohibiting 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."

The US government intends to secure a warehouse in Washington County, which is a facility to store manufactured goods, to repurpose as a prison for human beings. This would be in violation of the proposed HB 630.

ICE is acting in bad faith. The overcrowded and inhuman conditions of its facilities, and ICE's unlawful refusal to allow oversight of these locations by elected officials are well documented. ICE has stated that they will no longer pay for vital medical services for its prisoners. Deaths inside these facilities have been ruled homicides.

Historian Heather Cox Richardson recently wrote of the liberation by the US Army of the Nazi concentration camp at the town of Ohrdruf. The US colonel in command chastised town residents for being complicit in the horrors. Some protested, saying they had no power to stop the Nazis. The mayor committed suicide the next day. Presumably he knew that the community is ultimately responsible for what happens.

This is our community. Act now before a humanitarian tragedy occurs. Vote to pass HB 630.

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