

**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 9, 2026

Chair Bartlett and members of the House Judiciary Committee: My name is Jennifer Hess. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for almost 30 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.

HB0630 puts important limits on the creation, management, ownership, design, and authorization of immigrant detention centers. These constraints are much needed, as the impact of these centers -- nationally funded at \$38B, equal the combined budgets of 22 states, as reported in *The Washington Post* on February 14, 2026 -- will be major.

HB0630 would prevent the creation of immigrant detention facilities in a facility not originally designed for the housing or detention of individuals, such as warehouses. This provision would do much to prevent the kinds of abuses reported in existing detention facilities. To date, immigration centers have been reported, both by journalists and by elected officials, including Maryland's Congressman Jamie Raskin, as unfit for human habitation.

Truly, these are concentration camps, not detention centers. We have all seen the cages used in existing detention centers. These facilities violate the constitutional rights of all those who have been abducted and detained -- especially since so many of those detained have no criminal record, have not violated immigration law, and are far from being "the worst of the worst" that ICE, DHS, and the Administration falsely claim are the people they are arresting, abducting, and detaining. Instead, ICE has been making sweeping arrests based on skin color, language spoken, employment, and even based on showing up as legally required for one's immigration hearings.

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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