

Testimony on House Bill–Favorable

HB630 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities – Original Design and Construction

House Judiciary Committee

March 11, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee:

I, Lia Nigro, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB630- Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Original Design and Construction**

This bill recognizes that a detention facility must serve human needs in terms of housing and should be situated in a building originally designed and constructed for that purpose. Construction and design for commercial or industrial operations is not sufficient.

Many modern industrial and commercial buildings are too large to effectively convert to residential/detention use. Residential spaces need ready access to the exterior for natural light and fire code egress. Conversion of HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and sewage systems is not simple, especially with high occupancy levels or industrial spaces.

Given current events involving planned speedy repurposing of properties not designed for detention (a process that in normal situations even creating lower-demand residential space takes two to three years), it is appropriate that this bill become active as emergency legislation as soon as possible.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB630.

More Background Information:

ICE Buys Warehouses for Mass Detention, Rattling Locals, Washington Post
<https://wapo.st/46PwchZ>

ICE Spending Billions to Convert Warehouses Into Detention Facilities, PBS,
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/ice-spending-billions-to-turn-warehouses-into-migrant-detention-facilities>

What Is an ICE Processing Center, Project Saltbox <https://projectsaltbox.substack.com/p/what-is-an-ice-processing-center>