

BILL: HB 630

POSITION: FAVORABLE

COMMITTEE: JUDICIARY

DATE: March 11, 2026

SUBMITTED BY: Alyson Foster
623 Mississippi Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Chair Bartlett and Judiciary Committee members,

I'm writing to express my support for **HB 630, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction**. This is the first time in my nearly 20 years as a Maryland resident that I have felt compelled to submit testimony related to a bill being considered by the Maryland General Assembly. I think this speaks to the urgency of the moment we are facing.

For the past twelve months, I—along with many of my fellow Marylanders—have followed disturbing accounts about the numerous abuses being perpetrated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, including reckless destruction of private property, intimidation of peaceful observers, egregious civil rights violations, violent assault, and even murder. Many of these acts have been committed on camera and in broad daylight. If agents are comfortable perpetrating these sorts of offenses in public, it raises serious questions about what is currently occurring in ICE detention centers where there appears to be little to no oversight or accountability.

The Department of Homeland Security has shown repeatedly that they cannot be trusted. Not to humanely treat the vulnerable individuals in their custody. Not to follow the required legal procedures for procuring and establishing new detention sites. And certainly not to be transparent or truthful about the actions of their agency or those who act on its behalf.

Given the well-documented failure of DHS to act in good faith, I believe it is in the best interest of Marylanders for the Assembly to use whatever means they have at their disposal to limit the agency's ability to construct new immigration detention facilities in our state.

I urge a favorable vote on HB 630.

Sincerely,

Alyson Foster