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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0630, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention
Facilities - Original Design and Construction

2/18/2026

TO: Chair J. Sandy Bartlett & Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Chris Apple

Chair Bartlett and members of the committee, I urge you to support HB0630, which will prevent the use of existing buildings from being converted into detention centers that were not built to be so.

Maryland's Dignity Not Detention Act was a major step towards supporting our immigrant communities, but federal agencies are finding loopholes to further their inhumane agendas. They continue to keep detainees in unconscionable conditions, in buildings that not only weren't meant to hold people in that way, but also not at such capacity. This bill would help prevent the misuse of existing structures from being turned into something it can't support.

I urge the committee to support HB0630.