



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Shared voices for liberal religious values in Maryland

Testimony

HB1018 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Favorable Report

Date: February 12, 2026

From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate, Immigration, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

To: Del. Melissa Wells, Chair, Del. Kenneth Kerr, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in FAVOR of HB1018, Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.

I encourage your committee to deliver a favorable report on HB1018.

The Department of Homeland Security, in particular its subordinate agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has a long, documented history of inhumane treatment, inadequate medical care, and unsafe conditions that have put the lives of detained immigrants at risk.

A recent congressional delegation to an ICE detention facility in Minnesota, Fort Snelling, for example, described the conditions as “akin to a third world prison.” U.S. Representative Kelly Morrison, a medical doctor, echoes the concerns of the detainees about the lack of healthcare, scarcity of blankets when forced to sleep on the floor.

We must ensure that these appalling conditions will not exist in Maryland. Urgent action is needed to protect the lives of immigrants in detention before it’s too late. HB1018 is one step toward ensuring humane treatment, ending mass incarceration and dismantling the private prison industry in Maryland.

My faith, which I share with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across the state, affirms that every human being has worth and should be treated with respect and dignity. The inhumane treatment of immigrant detainees is anathema to these values. Please ensure that no immigrant in Maryland will suffer the indignities described.

I encourage the committee to vote favorably on HB1018.

Thank you.

Sources:

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
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