

February 10, 2021

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Carol Stern

My name is Carol Stern from Chevy Chase in District 16. I am providing this testimony in support of SB478/HB16, Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act). Thank you for recognizing the urgent call of thousands of Marylanders, who have raised our voices in the streets of Howard County asking for change to happen during this legislative session.

Jewish tradition teaches me that “when strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The sojourners who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

The fact that the State of Maryland allows Frederick, Howard and Worcester counties to participate in a system that is killing people and tearing families apart is unconscionable. Maryland must not allow these counties to maintain contracts to detain immigrants for ICE, and to actively build private detention centers there without transparency and resident engagement.

SB478/HB16 prohibits local jurisdictions from entering into or renewing contracts with ICE to detain immigrants and is a step toward that more perfect world we must create together. **I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478/HB16.**