



Indivisible: Central Maryland

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SB0478 Correctional services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Note Detention Act)_Indivisible Central Maryland_Enagonio Liz_SUPPORT.

Indivisible Central Maryland SUPPORTS SB0478. Our organization works to ensure justice and equality for all, especially those who have not traditionally benefitted from equal treatment. Our core mission includes advocating for fair immigration policy.

We believe that the enforcement of civil immigration law is the exclusive responsibility of the federal government. As such, we believe that the management and operation of detention centers for immigrants is also the function of federal officials who are trained to understand and respect the CIVIL nature of detention, and to understand the languages and cultural needs of a diverse group of individuals seeking asylum and/or fleeing persecution. We believe that the coercive force of police powers and the criminalization of asylum seeking are NOT fair or just. We see immigration enforcement as an inappropriate use of a state's police powers. We SUPPORT the provisions of SB0478 that would prohibit private contractors from owning, operating or managing detention facilities, or receiving payment related to detaining individuals in a detention facility. We SUPPORT phasing out the current involvement of state and local officials in immigration detention. We SUPPORT the provision that no state or local government agency, nor any sheriff's office may approve a zoning variance or issue a permit for any building to be built or repurposed for use as an immigration detention facility.

We request that the Judicial Proceedings Committee give a favorable report for SB0478 and pass it out of committee for a floor vote. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Liz Enagonio, Advocate

Indivisible Central Maryland

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