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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478
**Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not
Detention Act)**

My name is Deborah Rosenfelt and I was born in Baltimore, and have been a resident of University Park in District 22 for 30 years. I am Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland, and I am writing today as a member of Bend the Arc, Prince George's County Moral Minyan, and of Sanctuary DMV. I also am active in YANA (You Are Not Alone), the political action group of Fabrangon Cheder Community.

One of the cornerstone principles of the progressive Jewish tradition to which I belong is "Tikkun Olam," a mandate to repair the world. I take that commitment seriously. My father, a doctor, was too old to be drafted during World War II, but he wanted to serve anyway and volunteered. As a captain, he headed a field hospital just behind the front lines, and then after VE Day, was placed in charge of a liberated labor camp. I did not meet him until I was almost three years old, and he was not a well man when he returned, suffering from what we would now call Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Others in my extended family were killed, or became refugees.

Wars cast long shadows, not just on those who fought in them. But I learned to be very proud of my father's bravery and his commitment to fighting against the Nazis for freedom. He would be horrified if he were alive today at the development of quasi-fascist structures like those inhumane detention centers where ICE houses detainees, and which states reap benefits from. ICE's practices punish struggling human beings for seeking personal, economic, and social refuge in this country, subject them to state surveillance and terror, divide their families, and deport them often without benefit of legal help.

I personally know some undocumented individuals, and I know of many others, who are living productive lives, contributing economically and culturally to my community. Some work in our homes, and are seeking paths to citizenship. Many work in the currently-devastated culinary industry in Prince George's County, and have been instrumental in managing and staffing small family-owned restaurants especially along the Kenilworth Avenue Corridor—as I know from working on a food pipeline in the county designed both to support restaurants and secure meals for hungry families. It is absolutely unconscionable to raid, terrorize, detain, and deport people like these. And it hurts not only them, but our larger communities.

This legislation is an important step in protecting and supporting vulnerable people who have much to contribute. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Deborah Rosenfelt