

Dear Maryland legislators,

My name is Rediet Ghebrehiwet and I am a senior at Richard Montgomery High School. It has recently come to my attention that you will be presented with a bill concerning immigration detention this legislative session. The purpose of this letter is to urge you and your fellow legislators to support Senate Bill 0478/ House Bill 0016 which will prohibit Maryland local governments from going under contract with private businesses, require public notification of permit awarding for detention centers, and other very necessary immigration law statues. These centers contribute to the separation of families, the imprisonment of hundreds, and the overall heartache of countless people. Individuals who have committed no crime or very minor offenses are treated worse than criminals in maximum security prisons solely for seeking a better reality for themselves and their families, and it is not justifiable or acceptable by any means. Again, I urge you to vote in favor of SB 0478/ HB 0016, The Dignity Not Detention Act. This is not a matter of politics or economics, it is a matter of humanity. Please do not be on the wrong side of history.

Thankful for all you do!

Rediet Ghebrehiwet