

February 10, 2021

Jerry Kickenson
Silver Spring, MD 20902

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: Jerry Kickenson

My name is Jerry Kickenson. I am a resident of Silver Spring, District 18. I am writing in support of SB478/HB16, the Dignity Not Detention Act.

Jewish sacred text and tradition teach us to welcome the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Leviticus 19:34 explicitly instructs us to treat the immigrants in our land the same as native citizens. Native citizens are not incarcerated and separated from their families for civil offenses. My Jewish tradition is also rooted in liberation. I believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be united and free - never incarcerated.

SB478 would end state and local agency involvement in the cruel, immoral and counterproductive incarceration of immigrants and require transparency in any zoning or permitting decisions taken by local jurisdictions that enable private facilities that intend to incarcerate immigrants within Maryland.

I strongly urge you to reach a favorable report for SB478/HB16. It is the moral and right thing to do.