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

My name is Marsha Salzberg and I am a resident of Prince George's County. I am writing as a member of Bend the Arc-Prince George's County Minyan. This testimony is in support of SB478.

The Torah teaches us to love immigrants who may at first seem as “strangers” amongst us. This is such an important issue that it is mentioned thirty-six times. As only a couple of examples, Deuteronomy 24:17 says: “you shall not subvert the rights of the stranger or the fatherless,” while Leviticus 24:22 states: “You shall have one standard for stranger and citizen alike.” For me as a Jew, the issue of immigration is one touching deeply on my faith, but also on my experience and my family’s history.

I write this as a Jew who feels called to support the immigrants in our midst, as my family once was, and as most of our families in this country today once were. Policies that ICE engages in are eerily similar to those that oppressive regimes have engaged in in the past: stalking individuals at work and at schools or even at places of worship, separating families, caging children, even, as was recently revealed, performing hysterectomies on unsuspecting women. It is unconscionable that Maryland is complicit in these actions by taking money from ICE.

Our progressive state of Maryland should not be involved in cooperating with such an agency, and in enriching our coffers by helping ICE detain our residents. We should follow the lead of states such as California, that have passed bills limiting immigrant detention in their states. Seeing as states are absolutely not required by any provision in the Constitution to assist the federal government in implementing immigration laws, Maryland should especially divest from these efforts and be a model for other states that may follow suit.

I am writing to ask you to please support this important legislation. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB478.

Marsha Salzberg