

Hearing Date: February 10, 2021
11112 Spring Branch Lane
Berlin MD 21811
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB478/HB16
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention - Prohibition
(Dignity Not Detention Act)

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Our names are Joseph and Gail Jankowski, and we live in Worcester County, Maryland. We have been Maryland residents since 1978 and Worcester County residents since 2006.

We strongly support the passage of this bill for two main reasons. The first is that we do not believe that incarceration should be a for-profit business. While we know that Maryland does not currently have any private prisons, we want to make sure it stays that way. The second is that we strongly oppose ICE detention centers in Maryland, including the beds allocated for that purpose in our Worcester County Detention Center. Instead of detention, we support keeping families together, not detaining the family wage earner, and working with our immigrant population to move forward with legal immigration application and procedure in a reasonable time frame. We know that in our Worcester Detention Center are individuals brought here from much farther away, so their families cannot visit. They are also too far for their immigration lawyers or caseworkers to meet with them either. This practice has to end.

We urge a favorable report from your Committee on SB478.

Sincerely,
Joseph and Gail Jankowski