

Dear Council Members:

I am writing in support of Bill 13-26 (the ICE Out Act), scheduled for a hearing on March 24 at the Montgomery County Council.

Over the past year, we have watched in horror as the current presidential administration has attacked our basic civil rights, unlawfully detaining residents, tearing families apart and terrorizing communities.

Our government, voted for by the people, is supposed to be in service to all those within our borders. Instead, the current administration has emboldened DHS and ICE to act without impunity, running roughshod over our most cherished democratic ideals of freedom and liberty. Private detention facilities have a notorious track record of human and civil rights violations. Expanding such facilities in our community does not represent the ideals that I hold dear as a resident and parent in Montgomery County.

The ICE Out Act is an important piece of legislation prohibiting privately owned ICE detention facilities from opening in Montgomery County. I fully support this legislation and encourage the county council to expeditiously pass the bill into law. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Arohi Pathak

, Silver Spring, MD 20910