

Testimony on Expedited Bill 13-26

As a member of Indivisible Montgomery's Steering Committee and Third Act Lawyers' Coordinating Committee and as a Co-Lead for Lawyers Defending American Democracy's Maryland and DC Meeting the Moment Initiative, I strongly support Expedited Bill 13-26.

This bill would prohibit the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) from issuing a building permit or a use and occupancy permit for a privately owned immigration detention facility in Montgomery County. The intent of this bill is to prevent the use of both new buildings and existing buildings in Montgomery County as privately owned immigration detention facilities.

The Trump regime is attempting to create a nationwide network of concentration camps to detain immigrants. Egregious civil rights violations are occurring throughout the detention process. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) are breaking into people's homes without judicial warrants and arbitrarily stopping them in their cars with complete disregard for the Fourth Amendment as well as the most basic elements of the constitutional due process rights to which everyone in the United States, citizens, and non-citizens, is entitled under the Fifth Amendment. ICE and CBP are holding individuals without due process and denying them access to counsel, in violation of the Fifth and Sixth Amendments. Conditions in immigration detention facilities are deplorable. The Baltimore facility, for example, has a single cell with one toilet for 50 people and no mattresses or showers, forcing people to sleep in their urine. Thirty-two people died in ICE custody in 2025, making it the deadliest year in more than two decades.

Facilities in Montgomery County should not be used to contribute to these legal and humanitarian violations.

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