

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL 13-26
ICE OUT ACT
March 24, 2026

Chair Natali Fani-González and members of the Montgomery County council: my name is Anne Manuel. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for more than 40 years. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I am writing to strongly support Bill 13-26 barring private immigration detention facilities in Montgomery County.

We are a state of immigrants in the midst of a nation of immigrants. Our immigrant neighbors work, attend school, pay taxes, and contribute to their communities just like the rest of us. In fact, a recent study by the conservative CATO showed that what we all know to be true: immigrants contribute far more to our economy by the taxes they pay than they receive in benefits.

Yet the administration in Washington is taking a desire for an orderly immigration process and turning it into something Americans can't even recognize: masked thugs terrorizing our community, violently detaining our neighbors, and disappearing them into a system with no transparency or accountability.

Which brings us to the administration's immigration detention camps.

We know conditions in these facilities are terrible — so bad that ICE routinely and illegally denies lawmakers access for inspection. Reports have emerged of physical and sexual abuse, extreme overcrowding, inadequate and sometimes spoiled food, a hazardous lack of hygiene, and extremely limited access to medical care or counsel. Advocates for immigrants had to obtain a temporary restraining order at one facility to get the administration to provide cots, rather than leaving detained immigrants sleeping on the floor or plastic chairs. As of this writing, dozens have died under these conditions since Trump took office.

The Trump administration apparently plans to indefinitely detain tens of thousands of immigrants, many picked up solely because of the color of their skin, the language they speak, or the places they work. Indeed, of the more than 3,300 people picked up by ICE in our state last year, the vast majority had no criminal convictions; more than half had never been charged. Montgomery County should not be an accomplice to this.

This massive and indiscriminate detention policy is shattering families and destabilizing communities right here in our county. People are afraid to go to work, to take their children to school, or to shop for basic necessities. Civic minded Maryland voters are stepping up in this emergency: collecting and delivering food & toiletries and escorting children to school – assistance that was never needed before.

County residents are publicly standing up for the values enshrined in our law and the U.S. Constitution. Bill 13-26 would be an important step in defense of those same basic values. Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Manuel

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