

**Testimony on Bill 3-26-Favorable  
13-26—Ice Out Act  
March 24, 2026**

Dear County Councilmembers Glass, Fani-Gonzalez, Steward, Friedson, Katz, Evans, Mink, Sayles, & Balcombe,

My name is Jean Montgomery and I am a resident of Montgomery County. I am writing in **support of 13-26 – the ICE OUT Act**. The law ...

- Prohibits Montgomery County from issuing a permit or a use and occupy permit for privately owned immigration detention facilities within our county.
- Defines an immigrant detention facility as any building, facility, or structure used to house or detain individuals for civil immigration violations.

Let us be clear. There is an urgent need for this legislation. All persons under our Constitution are granted its liberties, right to due process, and equal lawful protection. ICE does not obey the law. Its agency and agents are reckless, lawless, violators of our Constitutional rights and human rights. ICE and its agents illegally enter homes and property. They illegally search, seize, kidnap, transport, imprison, and concentrate our neighbors into camps that do not have or adhere to basic principles of health, safety, and humane, sanitary care. For these reasons, it is imperative that we proactively and pre-emptively write laws to protect ourselves and do our part to grind the gears of ICE operation to halt.

I personally care about this issue because I have a close loved one who almost died in a cramped, concentrated, prisoner of war re-education camp. Through faith, luck, and asylum law, he was able to escape political and religious persecution to seek refuge in Maryland. The Rosenbaum family, a family with its own Holocaust history, sponsored him. He became a contributing member of our society, active member of an area Catholic Church, repaired medical technology in several area hospitals to effectively diagnose and treat patients, and raised family members who become contributing community members themselves. Migration is an act of courage that many of our families took or was forced upon us at varying stages of American History. While I recognize that it is important to have immigration policies that compassionately grants lawful asylum and secures borders, ICE does neither. Instead, it mass deports our neighbors, regardless of their actual status, to fulfill quotas set by Stephen Miller.

Marylanders and leaders of Howard County resoundingly said, “ICE out of our communities!” when they revoked a building permit for a for a privately owned detention facility in Elkridge, MD. Marylanders and Washington County residents said, “ICE out of our communities!” by protesting, showing up to County Council meetings, and speaking out when they learned of ICE plans to convert a warehouse not fit for human habitation into a detention center. Our own Maryland General Attorney Anthony Brown resoundingly said, “ICE out of Maryland!” when he successfully sued DHS and ICE, temporarily halting the construction and conversion of that very same Williamsport building.

This is our moment to be brave, moral, and pre-emptively and protectively cloak our neighbors and ourselves in law. **Vote in favor of 13-26**. Prohibit permitting for privately owned immigration detention facilities in Montgomery County. Resoundingly shout, “ICE OUT of Montgomery County!”

Sincerely,  
Jean Montgomery.