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Patrick Moran - President

HB 59 - Health and Wellness Standards - Correctional Facilities

POSITION: FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 59. This legislation requires the DPSCS with the advice of the Health Secretary to update the mandatory standards for inmate food every 5 years. It also requires that inmates can elect their meal and beverage of choice without requiring a medical or religious exception. Correctional officers have long advocated for better food in our prison system. Our members see first-hand when inmates are displeased with the food choices available to them. Recent changes in the food vendor contract has made the food much worse.

HB 59 provides a reasonable and measured approach to ensure that food choices in the prison system are evaluated on a regular basis and according to the best nutritional standards.

We urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 59.

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