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OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF CALVERT COUNTY

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SB-704 Children Charged as Adults – Confinement

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Major TD Reece
Administrator, Calvert County Detention Center

Date: February 16, 2023

Subject: **OPPOSITION** to Senate Bill-704 Children Charged as Adults – Confinement

The Calvert County Corrections Bureau opposes SB-704. We appreciate the efforts of this committee to avoid holding Juveniles in an Adult Correctional facility. However, this situation is unavoidable. The requirements stated in SB-704 (pg. 6, lines 15-22) will make it is impossible for us to hold a juvenile without violating the law. To comply with this section, Calvert County would need to build a multi-million dollar juvenile housing unit to the current facility, as would most Detention Centers in the state of Maryland. Considering how infrequent the situations occurs. The enormous expense could not be justified.

The Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards, within its compliance explanation for standard (M.) *THE HOUSING OF JUVENILES*; states “Every effort should be made to house waived juveniles, regardless of offense, out of sight and sound of adult inmates.” This has been our long standing policy. We have had no issues. We ensure no physical contact between the juvenile offender and the adult inmates. However, maintaining absolute sight and sound separation within our current physical plant is not attainable, even with the use of isolation or seclusion.

Calvert County Sheriff’s Office **OPPOSES** SB-704 and ask this committee for an unfavorable report.