



### Senate Bill 704 - Oppose

## Children Charged as Adults – Confinement

### Letter of opposition to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 21, 2023

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, I am pleased to submit my written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 704.

The Harford County Detention Center (HCDC) was designed and built to house adult pre-trial and sentenced individuals. The HCDC also operates a 24-hour Interagency Processing Center (IPC) for arrested individuals in Harford County by any law enforcement agency within the County. The IPC allows the District Court Commissioners to see all arrested individuals for their initial appearance in a safe and secure location.

Currently, there are no juvenile accommodations for intake, booking, and housing that will allow for the required sight and sound separation. If this legislation was approved as written and enacted into law, a separate booking entrance and holding area would need to be designed and built in the IPC. If the Juvenile was committed to the care and custody of the HCDC, a separate housing, recreation, and education area would need to be designed and constructed for both female and male juveniles. This would create additional staffing needs within the Detention Center that are currently unfunded.

The proposed legislation prohibits the “seclusion or isolation” of a juvenile for the purpose of achieving sight and sound separation from adult inmates. The HCDC currently uses restrictive housing as the only means of sight and sound separation.

The HCDC is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all inmates in our care and custody, but due to the current HCDC design and personnel budget constraints we oppose SB-704 and ask this committee for an unfavorable report.

Respectfully Offered,

Warden Daniel J. Galbraith