

My name is Jeff Sean Andrews. I was released from the Department of Correction under the Juvenile Restoration Act after servicing 30 years. I am in support of the Ombudsman legislation for independent oversight of the Maryland Department of Public Safety. During my lengthy time within several correctional facilities in Maryland I have witnessed firsthand and been the recipient of the inhumane treatment and lack of services within the prisons. Several inmates suffer from severe health issues and are misdiagnosed. They are given incorrect medication and there is no treatment for mental health. I witnessed the death of inmates and conversations by staff stating we were not worth saving. If an inmate is depressed or is suicidal you are put in a room and not provided any therapy. There are not adequate access to vocational programs for all the inmates. We could not get assistance for a tutor if you were placed on solitary confinement. During solitary confinement, inmates are left in the cell for 30-60 days alone with no one to talk to or to help with thoughts of depression and worthlessness.