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Patrick Moran - President

HB 385 - Correctional Services - Restrictive Housing - Limitations (Maryland Mandela Act)

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 385. We support efforts to regulate the use of restrictive housing, however we do believe there are instances where it is important for inmates to have the ability to self-select into restrictive housing to protect themselves. We appreciate that this legislation applies a definition to protective custody, but it does not provide for when protective custody might be appropriate. For the safety of inmates and the staff who work at our state prisons, we believe HB 385 should be amended to allow for inmates to self-select into restrictive housing and clear use of protective custody should be defined.

For these reasons, we request the committee provide a favorable with amendments report on HB 385. I

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