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**TESTIMONY ON SB#0827 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Juvenile Law - Confinement and Restrictive Housing – Limitations**

**TO:** Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0827, Juvenile Law - Confinement and Restrictive Housing – Limitations**

The purpose of this bill is to mitigate the negative impacts of restrictive housing, i.e., solitary confinement, on minors by limiting its use and ensuring humane conditions, which promotes better rehabilitation and reduces recidivism rates. By upholding human rights and dignity, the bill aligns with Maryland's commitment to fostering a better juvenile justice system and safer communities.

This bill accomplishes this goal through limiting the circumstances under which an incarcerated minor may be involuntarily placed in restrictive housing to the extent necessary to eliminate identifiable risk. It will place a time limit on the use of this form of restrictive housing by prohibiting the placement of a minor in restrictive housing for more than 6 hours. In some cases, due to fear of harm by a minor to themselves it will establish that minor's right to request restrictive housing and authorize a correctional facility to place a minor in restrictive housing at the minor's request. It sets up guardrails on the treatment of minors by establishing certain requirements for detaining, confining, or transporting a child.

It will move Maryland closer to meeting the stated purpose of the Juvenile Justice System.<sup>1</sup>

Maryland's juvenile justice system is based on a philosophy of juvenile justice known as "balanced and restorative justice." Balanced and restorative justice requires the juvenile justice system to balance the following objectives for children who have committed delinquent acts:

1. Public safety and the protection of the community.
2. Accountability of the child to the victim and the community for offenses committed; and
3. Competency and character development to assist the child in becoming a responsible and productive member of society.

In addition, the juvenile justice system seeks to hold parents of children entering the system accountable and responsible for remedying the circumstances that led their children to enter the system.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0827.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.peoples-law.org/juvenile-system-juvenile-courts>