



House Bill 647

Correctional Services—Restrictive Housing

Position: UNF

Date: **March 4, 2025**

To: Judiciary

On behalf of the Caroline County Commissioners, we wish to express our **strong opposition** for **House Bill 647 Correctional Services –Restrictive Housing** which imposes strict limitations on the use of restrictive housing in correctional facilities.

While we recognize the importance of humane treatment for incarcerated individuals, this bill undermines correctional officers' ability to maintain order and safety within detention facilities. Limiting restrictive housing to 15 consecutive days or 20 total days in a 60-day period severely restricts the ability to separate individuals who pose a security risk, including those with violent or disruptive behavior.

Additionally, the complete prohibition on placing vulnerable populations, including individuals with mental illnesses, disabilities, and those under 21 or over 55—in restrictive housing removes a critical tool for protecting both inmates and staff. Without alternative solutions, this bill places undue burdens on county detention centers, increasing safety risks for both incarcerated individuals and personnel.

For these reasons, we urge the General Assembly to reject HB 647 or amend it to provide greater flexibility for correctional facilities to ensure safety and security. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President