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SB-908

To

Senator William C. Smith Jr.
Chair: Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Smith,

I am interested in submitting written testimony in **opposition** to **SB-908**

I write to you as a career Detention Center Sergeant for Anne Arundel County with 30 years of ongoing history with my department.

My primary argument against this legislation is that it infringes upon our interests in maintaining both the safety and the security of our correctional institutions.

By Strictly limiting restrictive housing to 15 consecutive days (and 20 days in a 60-day window), the bill removes a critical tool for managing the most violent or predatory incarcerated individuals. Our Courts generally grant "wide-ranging deference" to administrators in the adoption and execution of policies that are needed to preserve internal order and maintain institutional security (*Bell v. Wolfish*). HB 1154 replaces professional administrative judgment with rigid, arbitrary statutory limits.

The bill's definitions are legally vague.

The bill prohibits restrictive housing for "vulnerable populations," which includes broad categories like individuals over 55, those with "serious medical conditions," or those perceived as LGBTQ+. These definitions are too broad and subjective for consistent application. From a legal standpoint, this can lead to Due Process challenges.

I believe the Legislative Branch is overstepping by micromanaging the minute-to-minute operations of correctional facilities—such as mandating exactly 4 hours of out-of-cell time—which may interfere with our ability to fulfill our constitutional duty to ensure public safety and the "care, custody, and control" of inmates.

By passing a law that is physically or financially impossible to comply with immediately, the state is opening us up to massive civil litigation when we inevitably fail to meet the strict 4-hour out-of-cell requirement or the 15-day limit due to safety emergencies.

It is for these reasons, that I am against this particular piece of legislation SB-908.

Sincerely,

Dale Waldroff

Sergeant, Anne Arundel County

Department of Detention Facilities

23 February, 2026