

# MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY



March 12, 2025

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The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support: Senate Bill 196: Correctional Services - Medication Review Committee - Administration of Psychotropic Medication to an Incarcerated Individual

Dear Chairman Smith & Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS/WPS represent over 1200 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS/WPS support SB 196: Correctional Services - Medication Review Committee - Administration of Psychotropic Medication to an Incarcerated Individual. We are in support of the establishment of Medication Review Committees for the incarcerated individuals held within prison infirmaries. This process will provide treatment for a population of patients for whom treatment is difficult to coordinate/initiate. This group of individuals with severe mental illness might languish in prisons untreated due to their refusal to take medications and lack of insight into their illness. At the same time, transfer to a state hospital might not be possible due to bed limitations or difficulty meeting criteria for involuntary commitment. The creation of Medication Review Committees will provide an avenue for treatment within the prison infirmary, ultimately allowing those to get the help needed to achieve stability. The bill as currently written is an improvement from the version offered last year because it provides adequate rights protections by mirroring the process currently followed in the hospital clinical review panel process.

For these reasons, we support SB 196. If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact MPS lobbyist, Lisa Harris Jones at [lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com).

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Maryland Psychiatric Society & Washington Psychiatric Society  
Legislative Action Committee