

February 4, 2026

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

RE: SB268/HB310 – Correctional Services – Restrictive Housing – Individuals With Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Fello, we write in support of ***SB268/HB310 – Correctional Services – Restrictive Housing – Individuals With Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities.***

Across Maryland, Fello is building communities where people belong. With a team of more than 650 employees, Fello supports over 5,000 people with disabilities each year – creating opportunities that empower people to live the lives they choose. From advancing equity and respect to expanding access and connection, inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. One powerful way this comes to life is through Fello Communities: beautiful, safe, and accessible rental housing that offers choice and stability for residents across income levels, from affordable to market-rate homes.

SB268/HB310 would significantly improve how Maryland’s correctional system identifies and responds to the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by authorizing clinical professionals to assess newly incarcerated individuals at intake and make appropriate recommendations based on those assessments. The bill also limits the use of restrictive housing, prohibiting a correctional facility from placing an incarcerated person in restrictive housing for more than 15 consecutive days in a 30-day period unless the individual commits a specified prohibited act, ensuring that vulnerable individuals are not subjected to prolonged isolation that could worsen disability-related needs.

By promoting timely intake assessments and reasonable limits on restrictive housing, SB 268 supports more humane and rehabilitative treatment of incarcerated people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and aligns correctional practices with best-practice standards for the health and safety of Maryland’s most vulnerable populations.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB268/HB310.

Sincerely,


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