



TESTIMONY - FAVORABLE

**HB921 Juvenile Law—Confinement and Restrictive
Housing--Limitations**

TO: Honorable Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair, Honorable Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: The Rev. Linda K. Boyd, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN)

DATE: February 26, 2026

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network offers favorable testimony in support of HB 921. Our National Church, The Episcopal Church, opposes solitary confinement due to its dehumanizing and harmful effects, and has stated:

“We oppose exploitative practices in prisons and all forms of torture, including the use of solitary confinement....The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners condemns extended solitary confinement because of its elevated risk for suicide and self-harm and considers solitary confinement for longer than 14 days to be torture...Solitary confinement also makes it extremely difficult for individuals to reenter society. The Episcopal Church condemns solitary confinement, heeding the call to ‘remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured’ (Hebrews 13:3). The Office of Government Relations partners with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) to advocate for an end to the use of solitary confinement in the United States.”

We follow the lead of our National Church. This reasoning is especially true for juveniles who need our protection and training. For these reasons, we urge the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 921.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) is a ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and The Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA