

# MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chair  
Members, House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Jazz Lewis

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 21, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 786 – *Correctional Services – Restrictive Housing – Limitations*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **supports** House Bill 786.

House Bill 786 limits the time an inmate may be subject to restrictive housing<sup>1</sup> and prohibits the use of restrictive housing for vulnerable adults<sup>2</sup> until alternate sanctions have been attempted and failed. Though MedChi cannot weigh in on the mechanisms to achieve the objectives of this bill, it supports the bill's intention to protect vulnerable inmates and ensure that inmates in restrictive housing have access to basic services, education, recreation, and programming.

**For more information call:**

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<sup>1</sup> Restrictive housing means a form of physical separation in which the inmate is placed in a locked room or cell for approximately 22 hours or more out of a 24-hour period.

<sup>2</sup> Vulnerable Inmate means an inmate who is under 18, over 65, pregnant, postpartum, recently miscarried or terminated a pregnancy, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or has a diagnosed serious mental illness or an intellectual, developmental, physical or traumatic brain injury.

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