

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Bobby A. Zirkin, Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Susan C. Lee

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
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DATE: February 21, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 539 – *Correctional Services – Restrictive Housing – Limitations*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **supports** Senate Bill 539.

Senate Bill 539 limits the time an inmate may be subject to restrictive housing¹ and prohibits the use of restrictive housing for vulnerable adults² 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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¹ 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.

² 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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