

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY



James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

February 26, 2019

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Judiciary Committee
Room 101
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 1029 - Correctional Services - Restrictive Housing - Limitations (Restrictive Housing Reform Act of 2019) LETTER IN OPPOSITION Hearing March 12, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Judiciary Committee

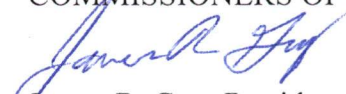
Dear Chairman Clippinger:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County oppose HB 1029 - Correctional Services - Restrictive Housing - Limitations (Restrictive Housing Reform Act of 2019) which is scheduled to be heard in the Judiciary Committee on March 12, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

St. Mary's County strongly opposes this bill. The proposed legislation is extremely detrimental to the safety and security of inmates, correctional officers, contractual and civilian staff, and volunteers of the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center (SMCDRC). The SMCDRC complies with the State of Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards for Adult Detention Centers. Removing restricted housing from the MCCA correctional standards and practices only increases the risk to compliant inmates housed in general population. The SMCDRC does not employ the staffing and contractual services required for the proposed legislation. Consequently, additional employees as well as contractual services will be required. Lastly, the SMCDRC lacks the physical plant to support additional staff.

We do not believe this bill would benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James R. Guy, President

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Page 2

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair

February 26, 2019

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey

Delegate Matthew Morgan

Delegate Gerald Clark

Delegate Brian Crosby

Commissioner Eric Colvin

Commissioner Michael Hewitt

Commissioner Todd Morgan

Commissioner John O'Connor

Dr. Rebecca Bolton Bridgett, County Administrator

David Weiskopf, County Attorney