

CITIZENS FOR PRISON REFORM

2018 CPR PRIORITIES

FAMILIES COUNT! MAKING FAMILY SUPPORT A PRIORITY

- ❖ **Support the Family Advisory Board Bill (see HB 4677 2017-2018)**
Sponsors: Rep. Stephanie Chang, Rep. Martin Howrylak
 - A pilot Family Advisory Board currently works with MDOC Administration. Because Michigan depends on families to provide re-entry support to their returning family members, establishing a formal Family Advisory Board is critical. Similar successful advisory Councils exist California and Washington. **This Bill is part of the Raise the Age package of bills**, which CPR strongly supports. These bills would raise the age from 17 to 18 to be charged in adult court.

- ❖ **Eliminate visitor restrictions for misconduct unrelated to visits**
 - Change Administrative Rules that allow MDOC Director to utilize visits as punishment. R. 791.6609 Rule 609 (11) (d) and R. 791.6614 Rule 614 (d).
 - Numerous studies show that family and community support is critical to success in prison and upon reentry. Taking visits for misconduct unrelated to visits is counterproductive. **Denying visits punishes innocent children, families and community mentors.**

- ❖ **Support a Family Liaison position within MDOC that would promote family reunification through policies and programs**
 - Bring families together. Help resolve issues between families and prisoners to increase success in prison and upon reentry.
 - Provide restorative justice programs to families and their loved ones. Research studies show that family and community support is critical to success in prison and upon reentry.