



#CallToAction

#SolitaryConfinement

Tell CT Legislators You SUPPORT this measure
All Materials and Resources Courtesy of ATCT

What:

- Support Committee Bill 7302 to codify procedures around isolated confinement, provide for greater transparency for its use, and provide training and wellness initiatives for correctional staff (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2017/TOB/h/2017HB-07302-R00-HB.htm>)
- Let's make sure isolated confinement is subject to careful regulation and that correctional staff is properly trained and offered stress reduction/support programs so the focus is on de-escalating conflict and disciplinary measures that do not lead to isolated confinement!
- For information on Solitary Confinement:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/what-does-solitary-confinement-do-to-your-mind/>

<http://jaapl.org/content/38/1/104>

- For information on Correctional Staff Training:

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/284522.php>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/02/140220112511.htm>

<http://www.psychalive.org/working-behind-the-wall-mental-health-of-correctional-based-staff/>

When:

- Written & Phone Campaign: 3/24/2017 thru 3/27/2017
- In Person Testimony: 3/27/2017 at 10 AM, Room 2B of the LOB

How: Any or all of the below are an option. *Contact Kate Conetta for support and guidance on written testimony and Theda Lambert for in-person testimony. You can message them on FB or email kate.conetta@gmail.com.*

- Submit written testimony to judtestimony@cga.ct.gov (examples on next page)

- Deliver your testimony in person on Monday 3/27 in the Hartford Legislative Office Building (see <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoice.asp> or contact Theda Lambert)
- Call & email committee members to voice your support <https://www.cga.ct.gov/jud>

Sample Phone Script: Hello, this is [YOUR NAME] and I live in [YOUR TOWN/CITY], Connecticut. I'm calling in support of Raised Bill #7302, An Act Concerning Isolated Confinement and Correctional Staff Training and Wellness. Studies have repeatedly shown that isolated confinement is an inhumane way to handle inmates and often leads to significant mental health consequences, especially if it's implemented for long periods of time. **[Insert personal or local incident if you have one.]** Additionally, it is critical that correctional officers be properly trained to handle situations in such a way that they do not escalate and lead to solitary confinement, and that they receive proper mental health support themselves when immersed in such a challenging environment on a day to day basis. I hope the committee will do everything in its power to ensure this legislation is passed. Thank you.

General Guidelines for Testimony to be submitted to Legislative Committees

The CT General Assembly website has a helpful video and write up on delivering testimony

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/citizen.asp> & <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoice.asp>

Guidelines for Written Testimony: Email your one-page testimony as a word doc or PDF attachment to judgetestimony@cga.ct.gov. Be sure to include your full name and address. Testimony received before the public hearing will be reviewed by the committee. Testimony can be submitted after the hearing and will be part of the public record, and may be reviewed at a later time in the bill's consideration. If your representative is on the committee, copy him/her on your email to the committee, or send it to him/her separately with a note that you wish for them to support this bill.

Guidelines for Oral Testimony: Remarks should be similar to what is written, but must not take longer than 3 minutes to read.

Example Written Testimony:

Date

Your Name & Address

Testimony in **support** of

- Raised Bill 7302 An Act Concerning Isolated Confinement and Correctional Staff Training and Wellness

Dear Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is [your name], and I am from [your town], CT. [If applicable, indicate any organization or affiliation you have here.] I am writing to **support** Raised Bill 7302, An Act Concerning Isolated Confinement and Correctional Staff Training and Wellness.

[Paragraph on why you support strengthening hate crime laws, referencing any personal experience you have had with solitary confinement or correctional officers, a relevant anecdote you may know, statistical support from a reliable source, as well as articulating a main argument from above.]

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely, [Name] [Address]