



August 7, 2022

The Hon. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator _____
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

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United States Senate
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Washington, DC 20510

RE: Ending Long-Term Solitary Confinement

Dear Members of Congress,

On any given day, tens of thousands of adults and children, a disproportionate number of whom are people of color, are subjected to solitary confinement in U.S. prisons, jails, and federal detention centers, in conditions that constitute torture according to the United Nations, leading medical and mental health experts, and other developed countries.

As your constituent and as a person of faith, I urge you to support and/or co-sponsor the Solitary Confinement Study and Reform Act (H.R. 8048) to create a bipartisan commission to study the impacts of solitary confinement in the U.S. prison system and establish new national standards on solitary confinement, with the goal of ending solitary confinement in the U.S. prison system. Notably, the membership of the commission must include at least three formerly incarcerated people or family members of incarcerated people. The legislation also authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to states that follow the new national standards and support community programming including mental health and drug treatment grant funding.

I believe it is a moral imperative to end the torture of isolated confinement. This legislation is an important step in advancing the goal of eliminating this form of torture from our criminal justice system. Solitary confinement causes devastating mental, physical, and emotional harm and leads to increased violence and harm in prisons, detention facilities, and beyond. Pro-social engagement and programming, which this legislation promotes, increases safety in facilities and ultimately in our communities.

Thank you in advance for your leadership in response to this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) _____

Address _____

CC: President Joseph R. Biden