



June 18, 2023

Senator _____
Capitol Office, CA State Senate
1021 "O" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Mandela Act, AB 280 on Solitary Confinement

Dear Senator,

I write in alignment with people of faith and religious leaders in California representing a diversity of religious and spiritual traditions throughout our state, we call on all elected and appointed state leaders to support the California Mandela Act on Solitary Confinement (AB 280).

Our various faith traditions hold in common a belief in the inherent dignity and worth of each human person. The complete isolation of people being held in California prisons, jails and detention centers in prolonged solitary confinement creates lasting harm while violating the basic religious values of redemption, compassion, and restorative justice. As people of faith and conscience, we stand in solidarity with the leadership of detained and formerly incarcerated individuals and their families who have worked tirelessly to end solitary confinement and have called upon us to join them in this sacred pursuit.

The California Mandela Act would end prolonged isolation beyond 15 days to reflect the UN human rights standards, and it provides a clear definition of what constitutes solitary confinement across facilities in California. The bill would also protect designated populations from ever being placed in solitary confinement including pregnant people, the elderly and those with certain disabilities. It is the first bill in the nation to also end the use of prolonged solitary confinement in private immigrant detention facilities.

Solitary confinement is torture. I stand in agreement with the moral leaders in our state who are calling upon you to use the power of your office to end this destructive practice that violates basic principles of human rights and the inherent God-given human dignity bestowed on all.

I urge you to support and pass the California Mandela Act on Solitary Confinement.

Sincerely,
(Print Name) _____

Address _____

CC: Governor Gavin Newsom