

H5927

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Hello Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Kiana Morel, a junior at Rhode Island College pursuing my bachelors of social work. I was introduced to this bill by a fellow cohort. I grew an interest in advocating for H5927. I ask that you also support and advocate for this as well.

Solitary confinement conditions are a catalyst for mental health concerns. Incarcerated individuals could suffer mental health effects even after their sentence is completed.

A few years ago, an incarcerated individual wrote about their experience serving their sentence at the ACI. It was a 3-year sentence, 2 of which he spent in solitary confinement. This experience in confinement was addressed as “torture lane” which should tell you a lot about the experience had. This individual says, “the lack of fresh air, sunlight, and human interaction, was causing me severe depression and hallucinations”. During the 2 years in confinement, this individual beat Lymphoma, despite living 2 years of his life in “torture lane”.

Therefore, solitary confinement is an inhumane and torturous form of punishment that increases mental health concerns and suicide rates.

I gracefully ask for your support on this bill, and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Kiana Morel