

Isolated Confinement Restriction Act S.51/A.547

Faith communities in New Jersey have campaigned tirelessly in support of the Isolated Confinement Restriction Act, which promotes humane alternatives to isolation, ends prolonged isolation and increases transparency and institutional oversight, because we are witnesses to the impact of holding someone in a cell the size of a bathroom for months, years, even decades. Our communities witness first-hand the condition of men and women returning home, sometimes straight from isolation cells to our communities. Far too often they are less capable of meaningful engagement in society because of the senseless trauma they have endured. Solitary creates more victims rather than bringing healing to those who are victimized.

Racial disparities

We must also denounce the disproportionate impact of isolation on communities of color, especially mindful that New Jersey was recently ranked worst in the nation for racial disparity in sentencing. Prolonged solitary confinement is unjustifiable and is torture that must be abolished for the safety of corrections staff, incarcerated people and the communities and families to which they will one-day return.

Medical and mental health experts, leading corrections officials, people of faith, legislators, legal advocacy groups, concerned citizens and formerly incarcerated people and their families are united in support for an end to long-term isolation. With the recent passage of this act through both houses of the Legislature, New Jersey has now established itself as a national leader on this critical issue.

The human cost of this practice is immeasurable and the moral cost, far too high. It is time to sign this bill into law in our state.

Where Are We in the Process in New Jersey?

Both houses of the state Legislature passed the Isolated Confinement Restriction Act (S.51/A.547), New Jersey is now poised to join other states, with both Republican and Democratic governors, in confronting the immoral practice of solitary confinement in our prisons. New Jersey legislators have done their job and now it is time for Governor Christie to do his by signing this landmark bill into law.

What Can I Do to Help?

1. Contact Governor Christie and encourage him to sign the Isolated Confinement Restriction Act into law! Office of the Governor, PO Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625 609-292-6000
2. Go to our website and sign on to support The Isolated Confinement Restriction Act.
3. Go to our website and join our email list to receive Action Alerts.

4. Forward this to everyone in your network.
5. Help spread the word on social media:

*On Twitter – tweet this post: @GovChristie sign the Isolated Confinement Restriction Act Into Law
#solitaryistorture #STOPsolitary*

*On Facebook – share this status on Facebook : @GovChristie sign the Isolated Confinement
Restriction Act Into Law #solitaryistorture #STOPsolitary The human cost of this practice is
immeasurable and the moral cost, far too high!*

Spread the word to everyone in your network so we can continue to build the momentum!

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