



NEWS RELEASE
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Media contact: David McGuire
860-983-7897

Connecticut Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Recommends Legislation on Solitary Confinement

The Connecticut Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released an advisory memorandum on solitary confinement in Connecticut correctional facilities. The Committee is concerned that Blacks and Latinos are overrepresented in solitary confinement in Connecticut and that solitary confinement can be particularly harmful for vulnerable people, such as juveniles, young adults, and people with mental illness. The Committee held a public [briefing](#) on February 7, 2017, to examine the use of solitary confinement in Connecticut correctional facilities to better understand whether there are disparities in solitary confinement and to examine the underlying factors that contribute to such disparities.

The Committee learned that legislation has been introduced in the Connecticut General Assembly's Joint Committee on Judiciary. The proposed legislation will codify procedures concerning the placement of inmates into solitary confinement, provide training for correctional staff, and require greater transparency.

The Committee is encouraged that the General Assembly is considering legislation on this important subject and recommends that any law includes the following five components:

1. A clear definition of what constitutes solitary confinement in Connecticut.
2. A ban on solitary confinement for all inmates 21 and younger.
3. A ban of the use of solitary confinement for people with mental illness.
4. Reporting requirements and data collection.
5. Training and wellness support for correction officers.

The Committee is reviewing the testimony and materials submitted for the record and intends to release a report to the Commission, including formal findings and recommendations, at the conclusion of this project.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).