

Chris O'Brien

From: Madeline Chin <madelinegchin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 4:19 PM
To: Chris O'Brien
Subject: Testimony for 7/22 House Committee on Finance - Close the ACI High Security Center

Dear House Finance Committee Representatives,

My name is Madeline Chin and I am a constituent of Rhode Island. I live at 176 Broadway Apt. 2 Providence, RI 02903.

I'm writing today to demand you take action to close the ACI High Security Center. While the Governor's current budget proposes closing two modules within High Security, this budget plan needs to go further and close the High Security Center outright.

I am a medical student and the medical literature on the use of solitary confinement (or as RIDOC calls it "restrictive housing" - which is the same thing, locking someone up for 23 hours a day) is extremely deleterious to physical and mental health.

I have heard first hand from friends incarcerated in High Security about the horrible conditions of building. The outdated building violates accessibility codes and fire safety regulations. Being isolated for 23 hours a day in these horrific conditions is a form of torture. With the ACI's multiple buildings, all of which have many unused beds, it is completely reasonable for the DOC to evaluate their classification system and move the individuals in High Security to other buildings.

The ACI High Security Center was built to house individuals in long-term solitary confinement, which is in violation of the UN's Mandela Rules. RIDOC Director Coyne-Fague noted herself in her 2019 testimony to this Committee that "keeping people in cells 23 hours a day is not really the way to go." She also spoke on the dangerous conditions of the outdated building, further proof that the entire facility needs to close. The High Security Center is RIDOC's most expensive facility to run at a yearly cost of almost \$200,000 per prisoner. Rhode Island would save millions of dollars a year by permanently closing High Security and could re-allocate these funds to desperately needed community services.

I hope that the House Finance Committee will take bold action in fully closing the ACI High Security Center.

Thank you,
Madeline Chin