

Dear Chairperson McEntee, Vice Chair Knight and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Francine Young

From Providence, R.I. In support of H8275

I am a member of Direct Actions for Rights and Equality.

I am testifying in support of house bill H8275.

I am writing in support of H827 because during my sentence in the Women's Adult Correctional Institution Facility I was sent to solitary confinement or segregation. I've found it to be very much hectic and mentally disturbing. Not only do you not have any outside connections or communication it takes a toll on the mental, physical, spiritual and the emotional part of the mind and body. I was there for 5 days in seg (that's what we've called it) and being in there you get no books, no pens or paper, nothing but you and your thoughts and 3 small portions of food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Not only that I was there I was there on a \$100 dollars bail I couldn't call no one or write anyone for 1 month cause I was in seg. Every two weeks I was supposed to go back to court for a bail reduction but because I was in seg that wasn't possible.

I have seen and experienced the harmful impacts of solitary confinement on individuals, families and communities. The use of prolonged isolation causes severe mental, emotional and physical harm and those with mental health needs. I am motivated to share my testimony in support of moving Rhode Island toward a more humane and justice system.

I urge you to pass H8275 to create an oversight committee to see what goes on in solitary confinement and to codify the changes that have already been implemented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.