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December 18, 2017

Deborah Slack-Bean, Senior Attorney
New York State Commission of Correction
Alfred E. Smith Building
80 S. Swan Street, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12210

Re: Inmate Confinement and Deprivation
I.D. No. CMC-44-17-00012-P

Dear Ms. Slack-Bean:

I am writing to support the revision of rules to decrease violence in correctional facilities. Unfortunately, the proposed rules do little to address the problem and, in fact, may worsen the brutality in these facilities. Instead of reinforcing the worst practices, the rules should adopt the relevant provisions of the HALT Solitary Confinement Act. Significantly, sustained periods of solitary confinement are widely recognized as torture, and so New York needs to follow the Mandela Rules and the lead of Colorado.

The current situation is untenable, but the proposed rules are inadequate to address the crisis in our jails and prisons. I ask that you revise the rules to reflect my comments and the numerous other comments that experts and survivors have submitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Dromm".

Daniel Dromm
New York City Council Member, 25th District