

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

December 14, 2017

Dear State Lawmakers,

I am writing to you today to ask you to please vote in favor of the HALT Act A.3080/S.4784. I have been volunteering in prisons for 4 years. The United Nations has declared more than 15 days of solitary confinement to be inhumane torture. This bill will limit solitary confinement and provide alternatives.

I know the heartbreaking story of a young man who committed suicide while in solitary confinement in a prison in which I volunteer, Fishkill Correctional Facility. According to Pew Charitable Trusts, "In the last five years, Colorado, Delaware, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oregon and Texas have passed legislation that either drastically restricts solitary confinement in state prisons, or orders a comprehensive study on potential reforms, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. " This practice must be halted in New York State as well.

Sincerely,

Sharon Roth

Sharon Roth, New York Annual Conference, Board of Church and Society