

JOHN HOGAN #97-B-0797  
WENDE CORR. FACILITY  
3040 WENDE RD., P.O. BOX 1187  
ALDEN, NY 14004

DECEMBER 11, 2017

DEBORAH SLACK-BEAN, ESQ.  
SENIOR ATTORNEY  
NYS COMMISSION OF CORRECTION  
ALFRED E. SMITH BLDG.  
80 S. SWAN ST., 12th FLOOR  
ALBANY, NY 12210

Re: SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN NYS (ACT, A.3080/S.4784

Dear Ms. Slack-Bean,

I am writing this letter concerning Governor Cuomo's proposed new Rules on solitary confinement in local jails. I feel that the new proposed Rules are completely inadequate for the following reasons:

1. While I do not know exactly where inmates confined in solitary confinement have their out-of-cell time in local jails, if it is anything like prisons, being out of your cell for 4 hours all by yourself is still torture. From what I remember in Monroe County Jail, the solitary confinement cells are solid on all sides and only have a small window on the door and the back of the cell. In order for these 4 hours to be humane, there must be other human contact during these times. There has to be some sort of programming enacted where these inmates can interact with other humans, and receive treatment for the issues that got them in solitary confinement in the first place. As I have spent time in solitary confinement in prison, I can assure you that it is torture. My mental health suffered greatly while I was in it. How can inmates have any chance to be rehabilitated if said inmates are tortured and when their mental health deteriorates while in solitary confinement?

2. Solitary confinement cannot exceed 15 days except for extreme cases. The jail itself cannot have the discretion to restrict those 4 hours as they would have a biased mind set. There would have to be an outside agency who would oversee this, with the authority to over rule. This agency would have to make a decision within 10 days of an inmate being placed in solitary confinement. As you know from the abuse occurring in jails and prisons, an agency cannot logically be expected to fairly police itself. Its just not possible.

Ma'am, It is 100% worse for young, old and pregnant inmates, and suicide for mentally handicapped inmates. These inmates cannot logically spend so much time alone without human interaction or programming. Solitary confinement is used by jails and prisons to hide some inmates for retaliation reasons. Inmates are kept in solitary confinement for years. Any normal thinking human being knows how these inmates would act or react when finally released. Like a bomb. How else would we expect them to act?

I challenge Governor Cuomo to spend a couple of days in solitary confinement as it is today. Why not try it? He would get paid for it, so he wouldn't be hurt financially. How about it Governor Cuomo. Are you willing to accept this challenge and see how just a couple of days would affect you? Probably not, because what you would say is that you are not an inmate, and don't deserve it, but just think about how solitary confinement affects the minds of those in it, Aren't jail/prisons meant to rehabilitate? Maybe with positive changes in our jails and prisons it would drastically lower recidivism rates. Solitary confinement not only defeats this, but subjects torture and inhumane conditions on people who are already suffering enough. Some inmates in solitary confinement are only in jail for minor crimes.

As a human being, solitary confinement amounts cruel and unusual torture.

Please adopt the provision in HALT solitary confinement, ACT,  
A.3080/S.4784

Thank You,



---

JOHN HOGAN #97-B-0797

WENDE CORR. FACILITY

3040 WENDE RD., P.O. BOX 1187

ALDEN, NY 14004

cc: Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
Jennifer J. Parish