



Press Release: for immediate release
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Release: Families with Incarcerated Loved Ones Rally at the Capitol; Protest Gov. Lamont's Silence, Failure to Respond to COVID-19 in Prison.

Hartford, CT – Families with incarcerated loved ones gathered at the Connecticut State Capitol on a wet Friday afternoon, demanding that the Governor take immediate action to protect their loved ones. Standing six feet apart and wearing personal protective equipment, families and advocates took as many precautions as possible to protest safely, while recognizing that the same privileges are not possible for their loved ones.

Families and organizers stressed that the decision to move incarcerated people to Northern C.I. would create long lasting trauma, in effect manufacturing COVID related casualties. Pam Mayberry, whose son was transferred to Northern after testing positive for COVID said, “My son is very sick and being given Motrin; there are no showers while quarantined. Northern is not fit for any human being and so I pray to God my son survives.”

Barbara Fair, an organizer with Stop Solitary CT said, “Today we came together to honor four men who lost their lives due to COVID19 in CT prisons. DOC acknowledges only three deaths, denying responsibility for Caleb Martin, a 26-year-old dad who passed away from COVID19 just two days after being released from New Haven Correctional.”

Despite the Office of Policy Management's recent re-characterization of release data, families were steadfast in their advocacy. Organizers indicated that when the data is broken down by discretionary versus end of sentence releases, front-end versus back-end reductions, and by racial demographics, the total population reduction does not reflect an intentional, well-thought-out plan to equitably protect people in prison. Throughout the rally, family members described the inhumane conditions that their loved ones were facing while incarcerated during this pandemic, concerns that should be at the center of Governor Lamont's response.

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