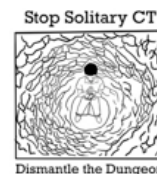


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Date: Thursday, February 25th, 2021, 9:00 am (EST)

Release– Stop Solitary CT Releases Report on Fiscal Impact of the PROTECT Act; Projects \$14 Million in Annual Savings from Reducing Isolation

Hartford, CT — After analyzing each provision of the PROTECT Act, Stop Solitary CT’s report *Protecting Lives, Saving Dollars* projects that the legislation would save the State of Connecticut approximately \$14 million each year. The PROTECT Act is Stop Solitary CT’s model legislation designed to protect the lives of incarcerated people. The report estimates that, from reducing isolation in DOC custody, the State would save over \$17 million. It also estimates approximately \$2.5 million in costs stemming from the legislation. The net fiscal impact of the legislation would be millions of dollars in savings.

Our report utilized fairly conservative estimates. In New York, a report from the Partnership for Public Good holistically analyzed the HALT Act—legislation similar to the PROTECT Act—and projected approximately \$132 million in savings each year. Our report, *Protecting Lives, Saving Dollars*, did not analyze the holistic impact of reduced isolation largely due to data limitations, likely resulting in an underestimate of potential savings.

Protecting Lives, Saving Dollars is a commonsense and fiscally responsible analysis. The report simply puts numbers to a fact that directly impacted communities have known for a long time. Isolating people in prisons is non-sensical. It costs human lives and taxpayer dollars.

In reaction to the report, Stop Solitary CT Steering Committee member Rev. Allie Perry said, “Prolonged isolation is torture; it is costly in human lives and, as this report documents, costly in tax payer dollars as well. The moral and monetary arguments for ending solitary confinement are compelling. Connecticut cannot and must not continue to pay that price.”

Speaking as a retired Warden and as a member of the Steering Committee of Stop Solitary CT, Bob Gillis said “I must emphasize that the consequences and costs of NOT enacting the Protect Act would have multiple impacts. 90% of those who have been subjected to isolation while in prison return to their home communities having been permanently scarred by their experiences. The costs for community-based mental health treatment must be absorbed on the home front—for remedies which should otherwise be avoidable. The hazards to public safety caused by individuals who have been traumatized by torturous practices while incarcerated, furthermore, create risks for ALL members of the free community.”

Reflecting on the human cost of isolation, Steering Committee member Leighton Johnson stated that, “It makes no sense to spend more on harm than you do on healing.”

For more information on the report’s methodology, please contact us at info@stopsolitaryct.org.

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