

Press Release

Date: Thursday, May 6th, 2021 2:00 p.m. (EST)

Stop Solitary CT Challenges SB 1059’s Fiscal Note and Releases Briefer— the bill will save up to \$17 million and cost, at most, \$1.9 million.

Hartford, CT – On Thursday afternoon, Stop Solitary CT released a briefer on Senate Bill 1059’s fiscal note after hosting a press conference earlier that morning highlighting one central fact — there is absolutely no trade off between ending the practice of solitary confinement and saving money.

At the press conference, speakers addressed precisely why the fiscal note drastically overestimated the cost of SB 1059. The fiscal note does not account for future friendly amendments. Additionally, ending solitary confinement does not, in any way, require the DOC to hire more correctional officers. At present, the DOC has the highest staffing ratios in its 53 year history, the incarcerated population continues to decrease, and multiple prisons will close in the coming months, which will further free up staff capacity. After appropriate adjustments Stop Solitary CT estimates that SB 1059 will cost at most 1.9 million dollars per year and projects that ending solitary confinement will save the State approximately \$17 million per year.

Reflecting on the press conference, **Stop Solitary CT Steering Committee Member and Former DOC Warden Bob Gillis** said, “Today’s exposure of the distorted expense estimates of implementing SB 1059 shows that there is institutional resistance within the Department of Correction to take the lead in progressive, humane alternatives to torture. For that reason, SSCT is doubling down in our push to pass the Protect Act, and we urge the citizens of Connecticut to contact their legislators in both the Senate and the House to bring the bill to the forefront.”

Ending solitary confinement will save the state money, which makes SB 1059 a political no-brainer. However, even if the bill did cost money, **Stop Solitary CT Steering Committee Member and Former DOC Mental Health Counselor Kevnesha Boyd**, challenged legislators to think creatively and to recognize that, at the end of the day, “there should be no limit on how much money the state is willing to spend to protect the lives of incarcerated people.”

A copy of the [briefer](#) is available on Stop Solitary CT’s website. Live [coverage](#) of the press conference is available on Stop Solitary CT’s Facebook page.

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