



Coalition of Advocates Releases Detailed Policy Proposal; Gov. Lamont Cancels Meeting for Second Time with Advocates, Families of Incarcerated People.

Date: Monday, April 13th, 2020

Press Contacts: Rahisha Bivens, 860-538-2697, info@stopsolitaryct.org
Joseph Gaylin, 475-221-0879, info@stopsolitaryct.org

Hartford, CT – On Monday, April 13th at 2:00 pm, families of incarcerated individuals and representatives from Stop Solitary CT, the Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice, One Standard of Justice, Second Chance Educational Alliance, and the CT Bail Fund were scheduled to speak with Governor Lamont. The Governor’s office canceled today’s meeting with less than 30 minutes advanced notice, demonstrating, yet again, a clear lack of concern for incarcerated people. This meeting comes after the Governor’s Office previously scheduled and then canceled a meeting with this coalition of organizations on Thursday, April 9th, 2020.

In reaction to the meeting’s cancelation, **Barbara Fair, Steering Committee Member of Stop Solitary CT**, said “our organization has made several attempts to connect with the Governor so we can have a constructive conversation about how our state can effectively respond to COVID19 to avoid the continued spread of the virus in our prisons. We are deeply disappointed that conversation continues to be put off. We won't give up trying because the voices of those stuck inside must be heard.”

Joshua Frazer, brother of Freddie Johansen and Member of the Katal Center said, "I fear the time has come and passed for the Governor to act in accordance to be a politician for the people. He has cancelled our meeting for a second time. The more that he waits, the more this gets worse. All that may remain now is the potential for the death of his incarcerated constituents.”

Stop Solitary CT and coalition organizations condemn the Governor’s silence. In response to the Governor’s inaction, the coalition will move forward with releasing a detailed policy proposal that outlines a set of urgent demands. The proposal outlines the current crisis in Connecticut correctional facilities, documents the State’s inadequate response, and articulates a set of urgent demands that would remedy the crisis at hand.

The report outlines that the Governor needs to act swiftly and thoughtfully. Among the reports recommendations is the need to immediately release people who are already scheduled for release in the coming weeks and months. **Yong X, spouse of an incarcerated person, said**, “My fiancé is currently scheduled for release within the next 30 days. He, and thousands of others, can have an expedited release immediately if Governor Lamont uses his power. Some of the incarcerated people, including my fiancé, are at high risk for infection They should not have to fear for their lives when they are scheduled for release within 45 days. COVID does not wait—why are we?”

###