WRITTEN TESTIMONY S. B. 1059

I, Joe Baltes, have repeatedly suffered the abuses and torments of Conn. Corrections, for years. I came to Prison at 18 & soon after the DOC began placing me in Isolation for the most frivolous reasons you could think of, such as not walking fast enough.

I have been subjected to all of the weapons in the DOC's Arsenal, inclusive of: Physical Assaults; false disciplinary reports; in-cell-restraints for days on end; uses of Mace for no purpose other than abuse (c/os regularly spray mace under the doors of isolation cells to amuse themselves with the Prisoners reaction); & so on & so on.

But the worst torment I have ever experianced were the tortures of the long term isolation & abuses imposed at Northern C.I. by way of their "Administrative Segregation" statues, or "A/S".

Where Corrections daily objective is to completely BREAK the Prisoners confined there. The sole purposes of this facility & these Seg. Statuses are to demean & destroy the people sent through them who are, 9 out of 10 times, only there because the Administration is upset with them, Not for engaging in violence or posing a threat of any kind. There are currently 5 young black & spanish men in A/S because they refused to lock in their cells until they saw a Supervisor regarding a problem with their food & rec. Afterwards they locked in without issue. Subsequently they were removed from their cells & sent to A/S for "Rioting". I was placed in A/S for refusing to be placed in Seg. for a false report, staff took me to Seg. & I never acted with any violence or aggression, I had a hearing for A/S & won, & was placed in A/S anyway with a complete disregard for the alleged due process.

Conn DOC has done Nothing but weaponize isolation confinement against its prisoners, to no effect but destroying people. Everyone who has gone through A/S or is currently there still suffers & is a or has become a disciplinary problem. What other impact could it have when you sit in a dark empty cell all day every day with no property & nothing to do. When you are kept awake all night by cries, screams or people banging their head on a wall? I can not count the times I have seen people break & begin to harm themselves in viscous ways, while corrections would stand by & watch & cheer on the self harm, because it gives them an excuse to run into a cell, hurt some one & put him in chains. All A/S & isolation ends in is people getting worse, hurting others, hurting themselves or killing themselves. What is the point in a system that only accomplishes that? Nothing but harm?

I, & every Conn. Prisoner Wholly support a bill to end Solitary Confinement. I, & every Conn. Prisoner Call upon the legislature & Demand they act to end this cycle of abuse & torture & Pain.

Only the legislation can Cure the infection that is isolation, DOC never will. I, for one began to litigate the horror of NS. The DOC's response was to send me out of state so I could not pursue that litigation. They recently sent me to Virginia where I was attacked by several inmates & stabbed in the back 6 times. After informing Conn. DOC that if left in Virginia I would be attacked again & killed, they replied that I would remain in Virginia. Clearly Conn. & it's people can not look to the DOC for the care & well being of it's prisoners. It is time for the legislature to take a hand. Past Time.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of myself and the Prisoners of Connecticut, I hereby swear & declare every word of this testimony is True & Factual.

By Joe Bailey

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