Subject: Latino Unit in Action Testimony in support of SB. 1059

Dears members of the Judicial Committee,

My name is John Lugo and We are Unidad Latina en Accion, a grassroots organization based in New Haven that focuses on fighting for the human rights of immigrants from the state of CT.

Here we are in support of SB 1059, the protection act. To say that solitary confinement is Torture that disproportionately affects black and brown people in this country and in the state of CT.

Many of us, many of our community have been exposed to solitary confinement in our own countries. We arrive here and we are detained by immigration and solitary confinement is also suffered there. Many of our brothers and sisters who have gone on hunger strikes to denounce the inhumane conditions in which we are treated, are eventually sentenced to solitary confinement. If we manage to save ourselves from deportation and in this case we live in the state of CT, and if we end up in jail, often the mere fact of not speaking English and due to misunderstandings, we also end up suffering solitary confinement - El Hoyo -.

Solitary confinement is a violation of international law. On February 20, 2020, the United Nations special rapporteur on torture, Nils Melzer, reported that the United States is a country that applies this sanction too much in its prisons and correctional centers, and he also said that he recently received complaints about these torture practices. Connecticut Department of Corrections.

"Apparently, that state routinely resorts to repressive measures such as prolonged or indefinite isolation, the excessive use of cell restrictions and frequent unnecessary and intrusive searches of the naked body," he explained.
I in particular suffered this torture in my country, Colombia. At age 17 I was arrested by the Colombian secret police and locked in a bathroom for a week. When I came out came out to I was physically tortured. This is one of the reasons I left Colombia.

Coming to this country and knowing that torture in my country as a result of the training given by the United States and seeing at the same thing happen here to poor black, Latino and immigrant people in this country who suffer the same thing leads me to question how friendly it is this country. I'm here in CT because I can make a difference. There are so many stories that I constantly hear that from my personal experience, that of my friends, that of my community, I see myself under the moral obligation to fight for this torture to disappear from the state of CT. I ask that you please support SB 1059 and end torture in our state.