My name is William McKinney Jr. I'm from New Haven and I strongly support the PROTECT ACT S. B. 1059. I am currently incarcerated. I have experienced prolonged isolation at Northern CI and here at Osborn CI. When I was at NCI I was in-celled over 20 times placed in cells covered in blood, fecal, urine, and semen. I was always chained up for 72 hours even if I "behaved." I was beaten by staff while I was in chains and naked.

They wouldn't allow me to wash off the chemical agent so I'd stay with it on my skin. It would burn me for hours sometimes days. I was short-chained multiple times and forced to eat my food like this. It was humiliating most of the time they would leave me naked chained up in a freezing cell. I had no meaningful social interaction. No contact with my family or friends for years. This created social anxiety and interpersonal issues that I still suffer from to this day.

I cannot keep a girlfriend or friends. I have very poor social skills. I have a hard time keeping a job. I can't be in crowded rooms or events with a lot of people. I can't stand in line with people behind me and loud noise's startle me greatly. It caused a feeling within me of impending doom. I thought at any moment I was going to be attacked. Locking a human being in a cage all day causes long term suffering and permanent damage. I found myself isolating inside my apartment. It was like I was still in prison. We need to end this isolation because people eventually come home and enter the community. DOC is ruining people's lives for ever following these practices.
I strongly recommend you pass this bill isolating people creates a public health issue. Imagine going from extreme isolation to total freedom it's sensory overload. I freaked out when I entered a grocery store. Seeing all the color's people moving fast around me I perceived everyone as a threat. I was extremely paranoid and afraid all the time. It gave me mental health issues for life. Please pass this bill for all our sales.

Print: W. J. Kinney 7/23/1928

Signed