

Call Off Your Old  
Tired Ethics



March 9th, 2023

Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am a Rhode Island voter and a representative from COYOTE RI writing to you today in strong support of S0617, which would establish the restrictive housing oversight committee ("committee") for the 2 purposes of monitoring the use of restrictive housing ("solitary confinement"), as well as disciplinary 3 and administrative confinement at the department of corrections.

We know solidarity confinement is a form of torture that impacts the person's mental health and does little to correct any negative behaviors. However there are other reasons people end up in solidarity. If an incarcerated person reports a sexual assault by a correctional officer, they are put in protective custody. This is the exact same cell that they use for solitary confinement.

I personally spent 5 years in FL DOC, at Lowell CI. [DOJ issued a report](#) in Dec 20220, **Alleges Conditions at Lowell Correctional Institution Violate the Constitution**, and here more than 2 years later and nothing has been done to change things at Lowell, CI. In fact, the DOJ even documented the correctional officers retaliating against the women while the DOJ was at Lowell CI investigating.

This is why we also support H5896/[S0372](#), which further define coercion so as to include sexual assault by a member of law enforcement who has the victim under arrest, in custody or detained or by any person who has supervisory authority over the victim's parole, probation or home confinement.

Please be part of the solution and vote YES on [S0617](#)

Thank you for your time and consideration

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