

Kyle Bennett  
Maine Youth Justice  
LD 1086

Date: Apr 21, 2023  
Senator Pinny H. Beebe-Center, Chair  
Representative Suzanne Salisbury, Chair  
Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety  
State House , Room 436  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

My name is Kyle Bennett and I am a youth steering committee member with Maine Youth Justice. I reside in Bangor Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 1086.

I am in support of LD 1086 because while being incarcerated as an adult and juvenile I have spent days to months in solitary confinement. The justice system uses many names that make up solitary confinement, while on paper it's technically not solitary confinement: it's a medical hold, mental health hold, protective custody, or administration lock up.

While incarcerated in the last year I was housed by myself for 120 days. I did not have contact with other peers except in the hallway or down in actual segregation. I would feel like I was in solitary confinement even while not being in seg because I wasn't able to have contact with anyone else. Yes, I had tv privileges and could use the phone but for 120 days I lived in a jail cell in a two person housing block by myself.

We really need a better definition of what solitary confinement really is, so that society realizes people who are incarcerated spend a lot of time in solitary confinement.

Thank you for your time and consideration passing LD 1086.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Bennett