



Restorative Justice Project Maine

24 April 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Rep. Salisbury and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. I am Jay Davis, I live in Belfast, and I write to urge your support for LD 1086 on behalf of the Restorative Justice Project Maine.

We have all heard Commissioner Liberty and others from DOC tell us there is no solitary confinement at MSP. Then we hear from people inside the prison that there is. We believe solitary confinement is cruel and unusual punishment, which is illegal, of course. The only way there can be both solitary confinement and no solitary confinement at MSP must be a question of semantics.

LD 1086 defines solitary confinement as keeping an inmate in a cell for more than 22 hours out of 24. That's clear and simple. We hope the next time Commissioner Liberty says there's no solitary confinement in his prison that he means just that — every inmate gets at least two hours outside his cell every day.

If that's what the commissioner has always meant, fine. But just to avoid any confusion in the future, please pass LD 1086 so we'll all be on the same page when we discuss the issue of solitary confinement, whatever it might be called.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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