

Display and discussion about solitary confinement in Wisconsin prisons

Posted on Wednesday, Mar 29, 2017

Event will feature a life-size mock solitary confinement cell

MADISON – On Thursday, March 30, Wisconsin State Senator LaTonya Johnson (D – Milwaukee) will be joined by Rev. Jerry Hancock from the statewide faith-based advocacy group WISDOM, and other lawmakers to discuss the use of solitary confinement in Wisconsin prisons. Individuals and family members who have experienced solitary confinement will also be present at the event and available for comment.

At the event, Sen. Johnson will also announce the introduction of legislation that would prohibit the placement of inmates living with serious mental illness in solitary confinement for more than ten days. The legislation will also require that a mental health evaluation be performed on any inmate before he or she is placed in solitary confinement in order to minimize the risk of causing irreparable damage to individuals' mental health.

The press conference will feature a life-size mock solitary confinement cell. The cell, built by the statewide faith-based advocacy group Wisdom, is based in part on drawings made by former inmate Talib Akbar during his one nearly yearlong stint in isolation.

WHO: Sen. LaTonya Johnson, Rep. David Crowley, Rep. David Bowen, Rev. Jerry Hancock, individuals and family members who have experienced solitary confinement

WHAT: Announcement on limiting the use of solitary confinement on prisoners living with serious mental illness

WHEN: 10:30am, Thursday, March 30

WHERE: North Hearing Room, Wisconsin State Capitol

This event is open to the public and the press. Press are encouraged to RSVP to sen.johnson@legis.wi.gov or [608.266.5580](tel:608.266.5580).