

I have a loved one currently incarcerated in private prisons Crowley Correctional Facility. He has been incarcerated here since before the pandemic. The pandemic has been extremely stressful on all of us and I acknowledge that the CDOC is operating in uncharted waters. I also know that incarceration is punishment, however the extreme measures and lockdowns that covid has had cdoc inmates subject to have been in humane. My LO has not been outside for "yard time" since October. On a consistent schedule of being locked in his cell for 35 hrs and 49 minutes being allowed to come out of his cell for 20 minutes to shower and make a phone call. So for every 36 hours locked in a tiny cell with another person he was allowed to get out 20 minutes. This is beyond torture it is not even how the department of corrections treats maximum security offenders. While CDOC takes a stance that this is not meant to be punitive okay maybe but it is extremely punitive. Not only to the inmates but the families and friends who provide support to these inmates and who will ensure they reenter society with support. I have been sick to my stomach with worry because I haven't heard from my LO in days. I wake with severe anxiety in the middle of the night thinking of my LO stuck in a cell the size of a parking space with no fresh air for 3 days at a time. It is also the lack of programs and ability to work and earn good time. The inmates also have no access to law library and many of them have missed important filing deadlines without this access. Covid has robbed inmates of all the administrative regulations put into place by the CDOC to afford inmates tiny bits of freedoms through no fault of anyone. Everyone talks about Criminal justice reform and the mass incarceration epidemic. Now is the time for change and healing. A day for a day served through these horrific days of covid would mean the world for families of incarcerated individuals and also for the offenders who have felt the full weight of this pandemic. - Heather Holmstrom

Section 9 of this Bill is what I am interested in seeing passed. This past year has been unbelievable and should be reason for inmates to receive additional earned time. Keeping people locked up for 23 hours a day is inhumane. Section 9 of this Bill would provide some relief and restitution. Unless you were an inmate or family member you probably can't imagine what the past year has been like for them. - Robin Reichwein