

Dear Board Of Corrections,

As much as I appreciate your attempt to remove solitary confinement from prisons, I believe you are approaching this issue from the wrong angle. I think terminating Solitary Confinement is a great thing, but then replacing it with ESHU is not. This is a kind of like like taking two steps forward and then one step back. I am glad you recognize the issues with solitary confinement, and I am grateful that 16 and 17 year olds are exempt from ESHU. However, I think there are some more drastic steps that need to be taken.

I think there should be defined limits on the amount of time someone spends in a "Special" housing unit. I think non-violent or non-socially disruptive issues should be punished with isolation. Despite disagreeing with it, I understand the idea behind isolation after someone shows they cannot be near others (violent actions). However, should people who commit non-violent actions really be punished to isolation? Presumably if it is non-violent they did nothing to potentially harm another inmate. There is no reason for isolation as a punitive measure here.

Another request I have is visitation, I think people in ESHU should be able to visit their family. We wouldn't want it to be isolation right? Then it would be just like solitary confinement and that is what we are working to prevent, no? I also think that there are certain population groups who should be excluded from ESHU, those over 60, those younger than 25, and those with a mental illness. I realize some of the other emails you are receiving today have very harsh demands, and I agree with those, but personally I like to work with negotiation. Rather than tell you how shitty a process solitary confinement is, I am choosing to tell you how to improve your correctional facilities.

Thanks. -Matt, 16