



CLOSE THE HIGH SECURITY CENTER

END SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

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IT IS INHUMANE AND OUTDATED

- The High Security Center houses 85 prisoners, most of them in extended, indefinite solitary confinement — **22-24 hours a day** inside an 8-by-10-foot cell. This is out of line with modern correctional practices.
- **Solitary confinement harms the mental and physical health** of those subjected to it, **increases violent incidents** within prisons, and is **associated with a significantly increased risk of death after release** from prison. As of 2017, at least a quarter of all prisoners in High Security had severe and persistent mental health issues.
- RIDOC Director Patricia Coyne-Fague acknowledged in March 2019: *"As corrections has evolved, we know that **keeping people in cells 23 hours a day is not really the way to go**. So this facility [High Security] was not built with today's philosophy in mind... There's very little programming space, which we know is necessary, and the **design of the facility itself is poor** because it doesn't provide the kind of sight-lines that are necessary for proper supervision... The building has **issues with ADA compliance... its fire suppression system... [and needs] security upgrades.**"*

IT IS EXCESSIVELY COSTLY

- It costs **\$199,000 per year** to keep one person in High Security. This is **three times higher than in Massachusetts**, and over **12 times more** than what Rhode Island spends **per public school student**.
- The poor design of the High Security building requires around **100 correctional officers for 85 prisoners**. Many COs assigned to High Security **work extra overtime shifts**, sometimes 32 hours long, making \$200,000-\$300,000 per year.
- States that have **closed supermax facilities and units** have **saved money**, **reduced the instances of disciplinary issues**, and **reduced recidivism rates**.

FOR YEARS, RIDOC HAS PROPOSED CLOSING THE FACILITY PERMANENTLY OR TEMPORARILY

"I believe it is entirely feasible that, with modest facility modifications and logistical changes in the ACI disciplinary and classification practices, individuals in High Security could be integrated into other prison buildings including Maximum and/or Medium custody buildings."

- Roberta Richman, Former Assistant Director for Rehabilitative Services, RIDOC

THE SOLUTION:

CLOSE HIGH SECURITY

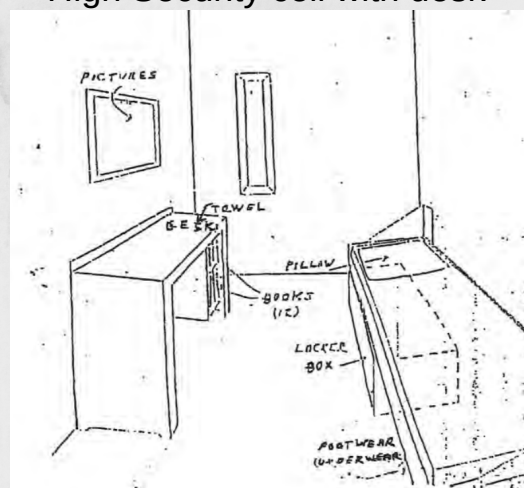
- Between 2007 and 2010, Mississippi moved all 1,000 prisoners from the state's sole supermax facility to general population—**saving \$5.6 million a year and reducing overall rates of violence, serious disciplinary incidents, and use of force by correctional officers.**
- In 2013, Illinois closed its supermax facility and safely moved its 180 residents to lower-security facilities, **saving over \$20 million annually.**
- The Colorado Department of Corrections, by drastically reducing reliance on long-term solitary confinement, was able to close a 316-bed supermax facility in 2012, **saving almost \$15 million a year.**

END LONG-TERM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

In 2019 alone, **12 states passed legislation that reformed solitary confinement:**

Colorado, New Jersey, New Mexico, Idaho, Nebraska, New York City, New York state, and Cook County, Illinois, among others, have **substantially limited or banned the use of solitary confinement** in their jails and prisons.

High Security cell with desk



REINVEST IN JUSTICE: INSIDE THE ACI AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES

RIDOC can make its facilities safer and better prepare prisoners for reentry by increasing access to **behavioral, educational and substance abuse programs**, and **invest in step-down programs** to transition people to general population.

- An example: When Colorado eliminated long-term solitary confinement, it launched a well-regarded and highly successful **12-week gang disengagement program**. Other states also have gang renouncement and step-down programs with **empirically-proven positive results.**
- Research shows: **the longer gang affiliates stay in restrictive housing, the more likely they are to violate prison rules** when they return to the general prison population.

Funds saved from closing High Security can be put to much better use: to **improve conditions inside the ACI** to protect those incarcerated there and the staff, **support essential social services** during this budget crisis, and **fund programs** that will actually make the ACI and our communities safer.