



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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June 19, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 280 (HOLDEN) SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Holden:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 280.

AB 280 limits the use of segregated confinement and requires specified correctional facilities to follow specified procedures related to segregated confinement. AB 280 requires a correctional facility to document the facts and circumstances when an individual is placed in segregated housing.

AB 280 defines "segregated confinement" as the confinement of an individual in a cell or similarly confined holding or living space, alone or with other individuals, with severely restricted activity, movement, or with minimal or no contact with persons other than correctional facility staff for over 17 hours a day.

AB 280 provides that a facility shall not involuntarily place an individual in segregated confinement, including for disciplinary reasons, if the individual belongs to a special population. A "special population" is defined as:

- a) Any person who is pregnant or is in the first eight weeks of the postpartum period, or has recently suffered a miscarriage or terminated a pregnancy;
- b) Any person who is 25 years of age or younger or 60 years of age or older; and,
- c) Any person with a disability, as specified, or a serious mental disorder, as defined.

Under the provisions of AB 280 a facility shall not hold an individual in segregated confinement for more than 15 consecutive days, and no more than 45 days in a 180-day period. On or before the 15th day, the facility must transfer the individual out of segregated confinement to an appropriate congregate or individual setting.

AB 280 states that segregated confinement does not apply to extraordinary, emergency circumstances that require a significant departure from normal institutional operations, including a natural disaster or facility wide threat that poses an imminent and substantial risk of harm. The

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bill also allows facilities to use segregated confinement for medical isolation purposes, to protect against the spread of a communicable disease, in accordance with state and federal public health guidance, and with the written approval of a licensed physician or nurse practitioner.

Research has documented that the excessive use of segregated confinement diminishes the likelihood of an inmate's successful rehabilitation and the deterioration of an inmate's mental health. In extreme situations it has even resulted in increased suicide and suicide attempts.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney