

**Good evening, my name is Carmen B, and I am the mother of an individual currently incarcerated in Connecticut.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the recent oversight report and conditions within Connecticut correctional facilities.

I have reviewed the findings from the correctional oversight office, and sadly, what is documented in that report reflects what my son has been telling me for a long time. What the report describes as systemic failures are lived realities for families like mine.

The report documents unsanitary conditions, excessive lockdowns driven by staffing shortages, and a lack of consistent accountability. As a mother, I hear the impact of these conditions directly. My son has called me distressed about weeks without cell cleaning, repeated lockdowns that keep him isolated, and the toll this takes on his mental health. Each time, I tried to advocate for him. Despite repeated calls, very little changed.

One incident stands out clearly. After a cell search, my son 's personal belongings were destroyed. He was extremely upset and called me multiple times that day. I feared for his emotional well-being and immediately contacted the facility, asking that someone check on him. I called repeatedly. No one followed up. It was not until a full week later that anyone checked on him. That experience confirmed what the oversight report highlights—gaps in responsiveness and care that leave incarcerated individuals and their families vulnerable.

I even contacted my state representative in hopes that additional advocacy would lead to action. Yet even then, very little changed. When families, advocates, and oversight bodies all raise concerns, and nothing improves, trust in the system is undermined.

My son is not defined by his mistakes. He is a human being who is loved, who matters, and who will one day return to his community. The state has a

responsibility to ensure that while in custody, he is treated with dignity and humanity. These are not privileges; they are minimum standards.

I appreciate the work of the correctional oversight office and the advocates who continue to raise these concerns. Like my son, I am not here simply to complain. I am here to be heard. I urge this committee to act on these findings and ensure that meaningful, measurable changes are made. Together, by listening and responding, we can make the system do better.

Thank you for allowing my testimony to be part of the public record.