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Title: President
Organization or Agency: NAACP
Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed
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Testimony:

Good evening.

My name is Corrie Betts, and I serve as the President of the Greater Hartford Branch of the NAACP and the Criminal Justice Chair for the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches.

I want to thank the Correction Advisory Committee and the Office of the Correction Ombuds for creating this space and for inviting public participation around the 2025 Conditions of Confinement Report. Spaces like this matter—because transparency, accountability, and dignity must be non-negotiable in any system that exercises power over human beings.

I come before you today wearing multiple hats: as an advocate, as a community leader, and as someone who understands—very personally—what it means to be impacted by the criminal legal system. My testimony is informed not only by policy analysis, but by lived experience, and by years of listening to men and women who are currently incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and directly affected by conditions inside Connecticut's correctional facilities.

The NAACP's position is clear: conditions of confinement are civil rights issues. How people are treated while in state custody reflects our collective values—and whether we are serious about rehabilitation, public safety, and human dignity.

This report provides an important snapshot of where we are. But my purpose here tonight is to help ensure that it also becomes a catalyst for where we must go next—including stronger oversight, clearer accountability, and concrete reforms that move beyond documentation toward meaningful change.

I look forward to offering testimony that speaks to both the urgency of the issues raised in this report and the responsibility we share to act on them.

Thank you.