



*The Honourable Kim Pate, C.M. | L'honorable Kim Pate, C.M.
Senator for Ontario | Sénatrice pour l'Ontario*

News Release

Senator Pate Introduces Bill S-230 to Promote Oversight and Prevent Human Rights Violations in Federal Prisons

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021 — Senator Kim Pate today introduced [Bill S-230](#) to require judicial oversight of Correctional Services of Canada decision-making, prevent and remedy conditions of cruel and unusual punishment and torture in Canadian prisons.

In 2019, the government rolled out Bill C-83, by which they aimed to end the use of segregation—also known as solitary confinement—in federal prisons. Two years later, these harmful practices continue in violation of the limited accountability mechanisms and at tremendous human and financial costs to prisoners and taxpayers.

As documented by the Chair of the [Minister's Advisory Panel on the implementation of Bill C-83](#), 1 out of 3 people isolated under Bill C-83's regime experience unlawful solitary confinement. Worse yet, 1 out of 10 people are subjected to conditions recognized internationally as amounting to torture.

Bill S-230 reflects amendments that the Senate made to Bill C-83 in 2019 but which the government declined to support.

In accordance with previous commissions of inquiry, investigations and inquests, Bill S-230 would ensure those with disabling mental health issues have access to community-based healthcare rather than being isolated in medical observation or other pseudonyms for segregation. Bill S-230 also proposes more robust community release options for Indigenous and Black prisoners and parolees.

Bill S-230 would require Corrections to seek permission of the court to keep an individual in isolation for longer than 48 hours. In addition to judicial oversight, the bill provides for remedial

measures first recommended by former Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour following the 1996 [Commission of Inquiry into certain events at the Prison for Women in Kingston](#).

People would be permitted to apply to a court for a reduction of their prison sentence or parole ineligibility period in circumstances where their conditions of confinement amount to correctional mismanagement of the sentence. This could arise as a result of extensive periods of isolation, lack of access to mental health treatments, services or programs, as well as lack of access to conditional release options.

“The Rule of Law and human rights for all Canadians are threatened when those incarcerated in federal prisons are treated with cruelty or inhumanity and subject to unlawful conditions,” said Senator Pate. “The culture within Corrections requires judicial oversight and prisoners must have access to remediation.”

- 30 -

For more information:

Emily Grant

Office of Senator Kim Pate

emily.grant@sen.parl.gc.ca

613-995-9220