



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI California

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April 1, 2022

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Chair
Assembly Committee on Public Safety
1021 O Street, Room 5210
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2632 (Holden) Segregated confinement – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

NAMI-CA is in support of AB 2632 (Holden), which will end the use of solitary confinement for vulnerable populations, including those with disabilities, people with a serious mental illness, and other vulnerable populations.

NAMI-CA is the statewide affiliate of the country's largest mental health advocacy organization, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Our over 110,000 active advocates and 62 affiliates include many people living with serious mental illnesses, their families, and supporters. NAMI-CA advocates on their behalf, providing education and support to its members and the broader community.

NAMI-CA opposes the use of solitary confinement for individuals living with mental illness that are incarcerated with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

Due to a lack of mental stimulation, psychological research has found that inmates subjected to solitary confinement suffer from a variety of psychological and psychiatric illnesses. For inmates who are already diagnosed with serious mental illness, such confinement severely exacerbates their conditions. We believe that, even when incarcerated, individuals living with mental illness have a right to humane, effective treatment in the least restrictive but secure setting.

For these reasons, NAMI-CA supports AB 2632. I may be reached at jessica@namica.org or (916) 567-0163. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cruz,
MPA/HS
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Members and Consultant to Assembly Committee on Public Safety
The Honorable Chris Holden, California State Assembly