



WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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RESOLUTION 24-1

In Opposition to H.R. 4972 & S. 3409 in the 188th Congress on The Elimination of Solitary Confinement Act

Whereas: The Western States Sheriffs' Association ("the Association") represents the elected Sheriffs of eighteen states West of the Mississippi River and,

Whereas The elected Sheriffs remain steadfast to their oaths of office and to protecting the citizens of their respective communities including inmates and detainees in their custody, control and care, and

Whereas: As written, the language and requirements contained in H.R. 4972 and S. 3409 Elimination of Solitary Confinement Act in the 188th Congress applies to jails contracting with federal agencies and would set national policy directly and indirectly affecting the safety, security, operations and administration of facilities run by elected Sheriffs, and

Whereas: The term "solitary confinement" is not defined in either bill and inaccurately represents the appropriate use of separating inmates and detainees in the United States, given welfare checks are routinely and randomly conducted by officers, health care and medical checks are regularly made, food and other inmate requests are delivered and fulfilled daily, and recreation time and communication with other individuals is made available, including through phone calls, visitation, mail, clergy and attorneys, and

Whereas: The bills specified above contain unnecessarily strict compliance requirements, create liberty interests for inmates not required by law, lack viable alternatives, and are excessively costly to implement.

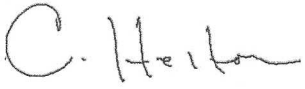
Whereas: The appropriate use of separating inmates and detainees from one another in a confinement setting is a legitimate, professional, and necessary administrative method part of an objective classification process when such individuals present a substantial danger to themselves, other inmates, and/or staff, as well as a tool to compel rule adherence within said facilities, and

Whereas: Appropriately separating inmates or detainees is an act of civility and one essential for jails to comply with clearly established laws and the mandated duty to protect and care for incarcerated individuals who prey upon or victimize other incarcerated persons and,

Therefore Be It Resolved: The Western States Sheriffs' Association calls upon the United States Congress to defeat H.R. 4972 and S. 3409 Elimination of Solitary Confinement Act and all subsequent bills of this nature.

Be It Further Resolved: The Western States Sheriffs' Association members request future talks of any legislation pertaining to the administration and operations of jails will include representation from the Western States Sheriffs' Association.

Signed this sixth day of March 2024 at the annual conference of the Western States Sheriffs' Association.



Sheriff Corey Helton, President



Dave Brown, Executive Director