

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
 MONTANA REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE EXTENT OF THE USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN STATE  
 AND COUNTY INSTITUTIONS IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, solitary confinement means to house an adult or juvenile with minimal or rare meaningful  
 contact with other individuals; and

WHEREAS, solitary confinement is referred to in a variety of ways, including administrative, protective,  
 or disciplinary segregation, lockdown, and secure housing; and

WHEREAS, there has been increased controversy about the use of solitary confinement in the nation's  
 jails, prisons, and juvenile detention centers; and

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care found that "it is well established that  
 persons with mental illness are particularly vulnerable to the harms of solitary confinement"; and

WHEREAS, a task force appointed by the U.S. Attorney General found in 2012 that solitary confinement  
 of juveniles produces symptoms of "paranoia, anxiety and depression even after very short periods of isolation"  
 and that these youth who spend extended time in isolation are most likely to attempt or actually commit suicide;  
 and

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care has found that solitary confinement  
 that lasts more than 15 days is cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment and harmful to an individual's health and  
 recommends that solitary confinement be eliminated for juveniles and the mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, solitary confinement is a practice that is currently used in Montana with individuals who are  
 detained by the state for various offenses; and

