



2021 POLICY PRIORITIES

CPR is a statewide family-driven organization dedicated to elevating the voices of families in prison reform. The following priorities were adopted by CPR's Board as some of the most impactful ways to strengthen family connection, improve prison safety, and reduce reoffending at no or low cost to taxpayers. Changes to these policies and practices would result in better and safer outcomes for inmates, staff, families and communities.

1. Advocate for an Evidence-based Approach to Solitary Confinement

Research has shown housing someone in a cell the size of a parking space or smaller for 22 or more hours per day for extended periods of time damages them both mentally and physically. Since most people who go to prison — 97% — return to their community, that means we are releasing people back into their communities in worse shape than when they arrived. Specifically, we seek to:

- ❖ Limit solitary confinement to 15 days at a time, and only for cases of a serious disciplinary violation. Create therapeutic cell spaces to lessen the amount of time in-cell.

2. Create a Family-Driven System Through Legislation and MDOC Policy

- ❖ **Remove restrictions on family visits as punishment for misconducts**

Administrative Rules allow the MDOC Director to restrict visits as a form of punishment. Visitor restrictions for misconduct unrelated to a visit is not supporting family reunification. *Administrative Rule (R. 791.6609 Rule 609 (11) (d) and R. 791.6614 Rule 614 (d))*

- ❖ **Provide Robust Meaningful Programming in All Prisons**

Provide eight hours of meaningful programming per day in all prisons which would include virtual and closed circuit TV programs to encompass self-help, mental and health enrichment, family relationship building, mentorship, and parole readiness programs.

- ❖ **Good Time Reinstatement - Repeal "Truth in Sentencing"**

Support Michigan Justice Advocacy in their effort to reinstate/create earned time credits by which an incarcerated individual can earn time off of their sentences by demonstrating behavioral change in measurable ways, including compliance with policy, active positive participation in programming, and engaging in non-mandatory education. This incentivizes rehabilitation and personal growth.