



March 31, 2025

Re: Opposition to HF2812, disconnecting families from their incarcerated loved ones

Dear Co-Chair Novotny, Co-Chair Moller and Members of the Public Safety Committee:

We are writing in opposition to HF2812, which would cruelly disconnect families from their loved ones while incarcerated.

ISALAH is a multi-racial, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities, Black owned barbershops, rural families, childcare centers, and other community-based constituencies. Our mission is to enable people to organize for racial, social and economic justice, and build a democracy that respects every person's dignity and a caring economy where everyone can thrive.

Regardless of religious affiliation, what we look like, how old we are or where we live, most people of faith agree that every human being is imbued with inherent dignity and worthy of love. ISALAH was proud to stand with the Connecting Families coalition in support of the legislation that removed often exorbitant charges that people had to pay to speak to their loved ones while incarcerated. This bill would reverse that progress, punishing not only those who are incarcerated but also their families, including children.

We urge your opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

/s/ *JaNaé Bates*

Minister JaNaé Bates, Executive Co-Director