

**Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing**  
**Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights**  
**“Reassessing Solitary Confinement II:**  
**The Human Rights, Fiscal, and Public Safety Consequences”**  
**Questions for the Record Submitted by Senator Al Franken**

**Questions for Craig DeRoche**

**Question 1.** I appreciate the Justice Fellowship’s strong support for the Justice & Mental Health Collaboration Act (JMCA). One Senator has blocked JMCA from passing the Senate, stating that he has questions as to whether the activities set forth in the bill are federal responsibilities. How would you respond?

**Answer.** I would respond by saying that passing the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act is not only an appropriate—but a critical—responsibility of the federal government. This legislation provides temporary resources to equip the “laboratories of democracy” to each develop unique evidence-based alternatives to the challenges faced by the criminal justice system in responding to people with mental illness.

As a conservative, I’m against federal funds that supplant state functions, but I support providing resources to local grantees where that funding will be used to start-up and evaluate an innovative program that otherwise would not be possible, especially where resulting cost savings can be reinvested to make the program sustainable at the local level.

Thank you for your leadership on this legislation Sen. Franken. I urge all Senate Judiciary Committee members to cosponsor and to work to pass this critical legislation.