**FELMERS O. CHANEY ADVOCACY BOARD**

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF WAUPUN HUNGER STRIKERS**

**WHEREAS** the use of cruel and unusual punishment and the torture of any citizen of the State of Wisconsin are barred by the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin and Constitution of these United States;

**WHEREAS** there exists within the Wisconsin prison system, as administered by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (hereinafter “WDOC”), a pattern and practice of forced solitary confinement of Citizens of Wisconsin and these United States for extended and indefinite periods of time known as “Administrative Confinement” or “AC”;

**WHEREAS** WDOC has unilaterally defined AC as “non-punitive” thereby abrogating the limited rules that restrict the use of solitary confinement in Wisconsin;

**WHEREAS** the Executive Branch of the State of Wisconsin has by and through the administrative powers of WDOC, created and implemented a system of torture known as AC;

**WHEREAS** all periods of solitary confinement are cruel and unusual punishment, and constitute an intentional act of torture by the State of Wisconsin upon its Citizens;

**WHEREAS** the use of solitary confinement constitutes a form of mental and physical cruelty that is counter productive to meaningful rehabilitative and reintegration goals;

**WHEREAS** the State of Wisconsin Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, and Legislative Branch have all failed to act to effectively end the use of torture in Wisconsin Prisons; and

**WHEREAS** Citizens of the State of Wisconsin and these United States in the custody of WDOC and being held at the Waupun Correctional Institution (hereinafter “WCI”) have begun to refuse nourishment in protest of the WDOC’s pattern and practice of torture and cruel and unusual punishment through the policy of AC,

**NOW, THEREFORE, IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOREGOING, THE:**

1. Felmers O. Chaney Advocacy Board (FCAB) declares its support for, and stands in solidarity with, the incarcerated Citizens of Wisconsin who are refusing food as an act of protest against the unconstitutional, illegal, and torturous actions of the WDOC; and

 2. Felmers O. Chaney Advocacy Board encourages individuals and groups alike to not only stand in support and unity for our fellow Citizens incarcerated by WDOC, but to make their voices known to legislators, the media, and through community building activities.

Dated this 16 day of June, 2016

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

**KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS** of our agreement and support of the foregoing statement and in evidence of which we do hereunto set our hands /s/:

Atty. Barbara J. Becker Barry Givens Hon. Sandy Pasch

Hon. Jonathan Brostoff Mary Ann Hack Dr. Sharon F. Skinner

Atty. Larry R. Coté, Jr. Edith Hudson Dr. Stan Stojkovic

Atty. Lindsey Draper Dr. Thomas LeBel Cindy Williams

Rev. Joseph Ellwanger Dr. R.L. McNeely Georgette Williams

 David T. McGinnis