

Name: Anonymous 859 Anonymous 859

Title: Community Outreach Fellow

Organization or Agency: The Coalition

Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

Testimony:

If possible can make this statement apart of the record for the committee on the 30th.

First I would like to start with that I stand in solidarity with J'Allen Jones family and against the oppressive system in place within the DOC by correctional guards who harass, instigate, ridicule, and look for every opportunity to dehumanize us - Aggressive tactics against inmates hoping for us to say anything back in response or even look the wrong way at them so that they can pounce on us and then write it up as a justifiable cause. Another reason why correctional guards are against body cameras because their nefarious deeds would be exposed. My name is Carlton Bryan, and I have been living under these conditions for the last 13 years at Cheshire Correctional Institution. Being a advocate for prison education and receiving an Associates Degree with high honors from Connecticut State Community College and currently obtaining my Bachelors Degree in liberal arts from Wesleyan University in philosophy, I dodge every day hoping that my fate doesn't end up like J'Allen Jones. Prison is supposed to be a place for rehabilitation and change, but is met with me and so many others being harassed and belittled each and every day that we go to school to better our self. I'm met with remarks such as "you don't deserve to get a degree", " we're gonna find a way to get this program shut down". Furthermore, Guards intentionally don't open my door on time for school and tell me school wasn't called. Making me a hour late or even later, sometimes I'm unable to even get to school. which is a tremendous problem when taking college classes because how imperative it is to hear your professor's lectures. Just the other day, while I was opening the door to leave my unit to go to school a guard had a dog right in front of the door, barking, growling, and clawing at me. The guard had to hold the leash with two hands and try to carve his feet into the ground so the dog wouldn't attack me. This situation even now having a mental effect on me while writing this because I have PTSD for being attacked by a dog when I was younger. The situation reminding me of a scene during the Jim Crow era where racist police would use dogs to intimidate that they had the power and control and I could not do anything about it. Truthfully the guards stance is correct, that at this current time I can't do anything about it because I have told various Captains and Supervisors about this culture and situations and it falls on deaf ears, nothing as been done and they don't even care. This is shown by them not even wanting to talk to you or giving you only 30 seconds before their walking away. I am writing this for this committee to be illuminated on a culture that is running rampant within DOC and its the reason J'Allen Jones isn't going to ever be released back to his family. We need more over sight and accountability within DOC. That starts with these prison guards being disciplined or terminated if they cannot help produce a rehabilitated environment. Police officers are wearing body camera's out there so I don't understand why aren't correctional officers mandated to do the same to have a device that will help at least keep them in check and show the truthful narrative. We need a grievance system that actually works where if I have a issue it will be heard and met with care and respect. We need more room for prison education. I have met with staff from Wesleyan University and Connecticut state where they are more than willing to teach more classes and give an opportunity for more of the incarcerated population to receive degrees but are told there isn't space. Which I know there is empty rooms available to make this happen. Statistics show that the more educated a inmate is the lower the recidivism rate is. So why not educate population the population. I'm am more than committed to helping this be a reality. Thank you for your time.