

21 July 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

I thank God that I AM EVEN able to write to this committee within our great Constitution STATE AS I suffered a series of strokes on the morning of April 24th that nearly took my life, but which have likely left me permanently disabled: Six months after I had been requesting today aspirin/blood thinner/air compression stockings due to lower leg swelling & random bruising. These strokes which impacted a large portion of the Right hemisphere of the brain have left me with left eye vision degradation, left ear hearing degradation, and in constant pain. Writing is now labored as I now sometimes write the wrong letter I'd intended to, and I now mis-speak & have difficulty remembering things I used to know, as well as finding the right word. Upon my post-stroke discharge from the hospital I was placed in interim care at MacDougall CI where mice ran in & out of the rooms, and where I had the disgusting and unsanitary experience of having the contents of another man's bowls splashed up onto me because I happened to sit on the toilet in W4 while someone in W3 was already going to the bathroom — an issue the Facility has been aware of for over 12 yrs! On Tuesday May 19th while I was attending Religious Services & thanking God that I am still alive, I returned to W4 to find out that during my absence a letter to me from Rockville Public Defender Bradford Buchta discussing legal strategy had been opened in my absence!

The DoC continues to actively prevent issues like these from being brought to light through restricting access to legal resources via SECURUS phone & application restrictions (a law library app was made available for a total of 4 days before being removed) — unconstitutional issues I pray may be looked into and rectified by this committee: AS you will see in my attached letters that I have been trying to bring to light.

Very Truly Yours,
Robert Cole

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ACLU-CT
765 Asylum Ave
Hartford, CT 06105

21 July 2026

To Whom it May Concern

I apologize for not writing sooner, but after making the medical staff aware in October of random blood clot caused bruising & trying to get on at the very least baby aspirin, I suffered a series of strokes on April 24th that were near fatal and which have left me likely permanently disabled somewhat & in pain.

Though I've brought the systemic blocking of inmate's ability to call for legal assistance to the attention of the Connecticut Office of Correction Overseer, DeVoughn Ward, esq. back in March, I am still not able to call your phone # 860-570-5000. ("You have reached the allowed #'s limit" is the message I get whenever I try, now. (It [the security phone system] previously said "That # is RESTRICTED.") — the same thing happened with my attempts to call Connecticut Veterans Legal Center. (They, too, were RESTRICTED, but now "allowed #'s list is full" message prevents my calls from going out.) When I wrote them, to make them aware of this, they (via Atty Gen. Oppenheimer) gave me your address to reach out for my assistance which you may be able to provide, stating "This issue is out of scope for us."

PLEASE see the attached 84 March 2026 3 page letter that I sent out to make my Public Defender, the Overseer, the CT Vets Legal Center, Yale, UConn, & National Veterans Convention aware of these issues.

Very Truly Yours,

Robert C. Lee

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Ag. 1 of 3
JEROME N. FRANK Legal Services Organization
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New Haven, CT 06520-9090

UConn School of Law
65 Elizabeth St.
Hartford, CT 06105

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program
2101 L. Street NW, Suite 225
Washington, DC 20037

04 MARCH 2026

RE: SECURUS INC.'s Systemic Blocking Access to
Your Legal Services in the State of Connecticut

To Whom it May Concern:

In a recent letter to the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center, I made them aware of a systemic issue I've run into in my incarceration as a ward of the State — and that is that inmates are restricted in their ability to reach out to legal services such as your own. The ability to call your program's phone number is programmatically blocked [“That number is Restricted.”] by SecurUS Inc., the private entity through which inmate phone calls are processed, via “private call.” Furthermore, the only other means by which an inmate may call out for legal assistance is also restricted to only two legal calls per month — these calls being made and logged by a unit counsellor = 30 minutes/month, per inmate.

There are no exceptions to this — as the Connecticut Department

of Correction has outsourced their phone services to the SECURUS company, based in Plano, TX. We are limited to six (6) connected calls per day - regardless. And when the SECURUS "Connect Me" phone call application crashes mid-phonecall, there is no means of recourse. Approximately 1 year ago, I found this out in the most tragic way possible when, after completing a phone call with my wife, who was at home & alone suffering from Stage 4 colorectal cancer, I tried to call a friend (whose wife is a nurse) to check in on her - only to receive the system message that I had reached the maximum number of phone calls allowed per day.

My wife was found deceased the following morning.

Our country was founded on principles allowing for everyone to have the ability to petition our government to address (and, hopefully) redress grievances - but this cannot happen when our ability to do so is being deliberately blocked - systematically and programmatically.

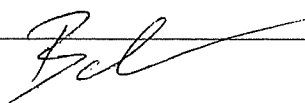
I have let my Public Defender know about this - Attorney Bradford Brubaker, Public Defender for Rockville, and he said that his number should not be blocked. Yet it is. I have also written to Mr. DeVoughn who, esp., Connecticut Correctional Commission, to bring this issue to light as well - along with the fact that, per Department of Correction policy & procedure, any attempt to vote via absentee ballot will be invalidating to that vote. All outgoing mail is to be stamped "This correspondence originated from a Connecticut Correctional Facility" - no

exceptions. Yet that, coupled with the onerous burden of Absentee ballots being handled as "legal mail," has the effect of silencing any attempt to participate in the Democratic process — as any ballots received late are invalidated, as are any ballots received where the outer envelope has been molested, stamped, changed and/or altered [which, per policy, every envelope must be].

I have mentioned this to the Connecticut Inmate Legal Assistance Program (ILAP), but it has been over 6 months now since I have done so, and I have not received word back.

I am mailing this letter to each of your offices to be sure you are aware that your phone numbers are being restricted by the State of Connecticut, Department of Correction via the Securus phone system: Yale — (203) 432-4800; UConn — (860) 570-5765; and Vet's Consortium — (888) 838-7727. So please: BE ADVISED, YOUR PHONE NUMBER IS RESTRICTED.

If you have any questions or if there is any further information which I may provide, I can be reached via the R-Ad Counsellor devon.richard@sect.gov, or via my mailing address, or MacDougall_ProfVisit@ct.gov.



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- cc:
- CT Veterans Legal Center
 - Rockville Public Defender,
Bradford Buchta
 - CT Correction Ombudsman
DeVargh Wm