

Name: Svetlana Baidak
Title: Ongoing mistreatment in CT DOC
Organization or Agency: We Got This
Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed
NA

Testimony:

Good day. My name is Svetlana Baidak.
I am a Mental Health Professional. As well as a wife to a man incarcerated in CT DOC for over 26 years.

I sat here at the last hearing. Yet here I am again with almost exact concerns.

At that time, I spoke about my husband's serious medical conditions, classified as Priority 4—meaning “very serious and imminent.” These conditions have been known to the Department's administration since 2012.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Office of the Correction Ombuds for its efforts in bringing his medical needs to the forefront. Despite those efforts, he has still not received even one of the surgeries he requires.

A recurring concern raised by incarcerated individuals is safety. No one should be threatened, assaulted, sexually abused, or lose their life while in state custody. Yet these continue to occur.

Safety also depends on professionalism and proper staff training. Too often, incarcerated individuals and their families are treated with disrespect. Mail is withheld, visits are canceled, and routine emails can take weeks to be delivered.

I understand that our calls are monitored. However, inserting comments such as, “Your child got a good grade,” serves no legitimate security purpose. For a father who has not received photographs of his child in more than two years, this is not about safety or security—it is an unnecessary reminder of the control being exercised over family communication. Mail interference and unnecessary cruelty should never be accepted as standard practice.

Greater accountability and truly independent oversight would help reduce assaults, contraband, and deaths in custody while restoring public confidence in the system.

If I subjected an animal to the same level of neglect, inadequate medical care, deprivation, or interference with basic welfare, I could face criminal charges. Yet when I ask that my husband's basic civil and human rights be upheld—that he receive necessary medical care and be treated with dignity—I am met with obstacle after obstacle.

We demand change for our loved ones because they are human beings. We want them safe, alive, and safe I say, rehabilitating!

Thank you for your time.