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Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

Testimony:

Dear Correction Advisory Committee Members:

I am writing in the hopes that this isn't another effort in futility.

Suffered four strokes last April and became Paralyzed on the left side of my body and was denied all rehabilitation and was even denied access to the walking program at MacDougall Correctional Institution by my PROVIDER DOCTOR SYED NAQVI. the nursing staff here have taken it upon themselves to deny me all rehabilitation assistance after I reported how they were torturing an elderly prisoner in the medical Infirmary ward by strapping him to a chair all night in the middle of the ward I was assigned to. this poor old fellow cried for his Momma and urinated and defecated on himself every night so I contacted the Connecticut State Police to report this abuse, the nurses were reprimanded and have since lobbied for my removal from the infirmary and have denied me all access to physical therapy sessions that were scheduled for me, even charging me for not going to these appointments, even when they never told me I was supposed to go. I have been rehabilitating myself by doing the opposite of what I was being instructed to do by medical personnel. I was given a rollator walker that is meant for a child, just to make my rehab harder I have had my walker confiscated by another PROVIDER from another facility without any consultation with me just for punishment purposes. The DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION HAS WEAPONIZED THE PRISON HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

In a video I had preserved, you can witness MacDougal nurse Donna Thorned following me around the infirmary yelling at me, only because I was attempting to rehab myself. No thanks to the medical staff here I have trained myself to walk again. Even officers have expressed their well wishes for my efforts to function on pure will power.

This committee should also be aware of how these unwarranted lockdowns affect people like me. I have a simple routine of walking around my unit three times a day going up stairs and then back down to strengthen my once paralyzed leg and prevent atrophy. If I don't do this my left leg becomes painfully stiff and all the progress I made was all in vain

Also I'm sure you are all aware of the usage of the drug deuce..When prisoners cannot leave their cells for exercise they are turning more and more to drug use. Many have had overdoses and the secondhand smoke from this drug comes into prisoners cells through the vent system. People like me (yes weAREPEOPLE) CANNOT keep inhaling this second hand smoke, it makes breathing painful and makes me cough continuously on top of that I am an asthmatic. There should be more accountability for guards that bring these drugs into the prison system. But clearly the profits outweigh any fear of getting caught or of losing their jobs or potential pension plans. How crazy is that!?

I get a kick out of this part: Medical staff respond to these CODE WHITE'S and are aware of the effects of these drugs yet where is their testimonies? Why are they silent? We ask ourselves (we meaning prisoners) are the nurses also members of the Correction Officers Union? What is the price of whistleblowing?? How does the Officers Union react to whistleblowers? The fear must be real as there hasn't been any whistleblower era yet, or am I missing something?

Did not the Governor sign the Protect Act into law?? How bold is this Union to mutiny a GOVERNOR!!?? Their horse must be significantly high. Like Guinness Book of World Records High. to

snuff an order from the governor. Or maybe the goose has grown too fat? Where is the might of the governorship? Is the position made for a puppeteer?

Prisoners have the time to think and those of us who are neurodivergent have the ability to see problems and take it further to discover solutions. With that said, I think it was Albert Einstein who said "One cannot solve a problem with the same mentality that created the problem in the first place". The Criminal justice system in Connecticut is a failed program that is breaking this small state's economic infrastructure. Would Connecticut like to get ahead again? To lead the way to true progress and no longer stand in the shadow of it? How does the ego work against us?

Yes, I say "us" because we are all brothers and sisters of a struggle. I want to prosper but not at the cost of tranquility. I think it is possible the prison industrial complex is not yielding the results originally projected, but rather has birthed new problems with rogue and selfish Unions. Think – no prisons means no need for Officers Unions. They sacrifice taxpayer funds every time they subject themselves to civil lawsuits and most of the time for things that could've been avoided had they respected the rights of citizens. These Unions keep the State from firing it's membership. So how about closing prisons, no prisons means no jobs for them. If you usher in an era of true reform, you can count on the prison population to effect change. Show us and we'll show you.

Working together is better than you pushing while we're pushing, think about the willing workforce you have here. it has been untapped for decades.

When computers are built they come with the ability to reboot. Yet here you have a system that has no such fail safe. You have prisoners that care about others, and you fail to see the potential in that. What ever happened to the great visionaries of our time? End these lock-downs. Allow prisoners routine exercise periods and build self esteem, try to end the reasons prisoners use drugs. Give them hope. How do you do that? Hey Stupids! Give them examples! You know damn well it was the commercials for Reese's Peanut Butter Cups that convinced you to try them and eventually fall in Love with them. Jeeze you people are so dumb, I could just slap you!

Respectfully submitted.