



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

RESOLUTION

Calling for Oversight Hearings to Examine the Treatment of Federal Female Inmates

IT IS AVOWED, that NAWJ is organized to ensure equal justice for women, protect the rights of individuals, and bring about improvements concerning matters of importance in the administration of justice;

BASED ON THE AVOWAL, NAWJ hereby respectfully requests the United States Congress, with support from the Executive, to initiate oversight hearings to examine the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) treatment of women prisoners. It is requested that oversight hearings include the following inquiries of BOP:

- a). A review of where women are housed vis-à-vis policy of housing inmates within 500 miles of their place of residence;
- b). How frequently the 500-mile policy is not observed for women, compared to men;
- c). The amount of funds allocated for medical treatment and drug treatment programs for women, compared to men;
- d). Policies for treatment of pregnant inmates including whether community resources are made available to provide placement, education, and training;
- e). Policies and procedures for enhancing opportunities for communications and visits with children and families.

THE NAWJ REQUEST FOR OVERSIGHT HEARINGS IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

WHEREAS as of July 25, 2013, BOP had custody of 14,624 women incarcerated in federal prisons, 6.7 percent of the total federal inmate population as reported in QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE BUREAU OF PRISONS, <http://www.bop.gov/news/quick.jsp#1> (last visited July 25, 2013);

WHEREAS the National Women's Law Center has reported that more than one-half of female inmates have children under the age of 18;

WHEREAS BOP has failed to comply with its own 1997 policy that "All Bureau policies, programs, and services address and consider the needs of female offenders," as reported by the Bureau of Prisons, Program Statement, Management of Female Offenders, OPI: CPD, No. 5200.01 (August 4, 1997);

WHEREAS NAWJ perceives the position of Female Offender Program Administrator as a token position occupied by a single person with no staff and no authority;

WHEREAS the NAWJ's Women in Prison Committee (WIPC) has ceased requesting dialogue with BOP, after ten years of attempting dialogue on the treatment of women prisoners and their children - because BOP does not consider gender in making policy, has failed to recognize the significance of issues such as: shackling pregnant women in transport and in labor, and parity in programming, and has failed to realize the seriousness and significance of not carrying through on commitments made by BOP, such as the long anticipated pilot in-house nursery program;

WHEREAS BOP lacks a comprehensive incarceration plan for women that incorporates the advice of correctional experts and state experience to consider numbers, locations, risks, and gender needs;

WHEREAS in August 2013, BOP plans to continue the disregard for concerns of women prisoners by commencing to ship female prisoners from Federal Correctional Institute (FCI) in Danbury, Connecticut (which now houses female prisoners from nine north-eastern states and the District of Columbia), to a FCI in Aliceville, Alabama, in a remote location where the distance is significantly more than 500 miles from inmate family residences in the north-east and lacks available public transportation, which will severely limit family contacts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NAWJ respectfully urges the United State Congress, with support from the Executive, to initiate oversight hearings to examine the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons' treatment of women prisoners

Adopted August 19, 2013

At the meeting this date of the NAWJ Executive Committee in conference assembled.

Joan V. Churchill

Honorable Joan V. Churchill
President, NAWJ