

T.I.P. Journal



First and foremost I would like to apologize for not getting this and the Summer issue put out this year and will offer no excuse except that I was just not in a very good place within myself for what now seems like a very long time and I do truly feel bad that you of all the people in my life had to suffer a consequence of my 'funk'. With that said, I'll ramble along to the end of this first page.

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There has been a lot of good work done for the transgender prisoners within the United States D.O.C. system and I have included several of what I feel are some of the most recent and important ones that may reflect some of that work.

I seem to receive a lot of advice on just how this journal should be written, the type of stories I should be publishing right down to the size and type of font I should be using. Although I do appreciate all the feedback that I receive (and I generally do!) I try to take it all in stride and to put things into perspective so that when I do pick which stories I put in here I do so with what the majority of the feedback that I receive wants.

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Not all, and actually a very small percentage of the transgender prisoners within the system are seeking any kind of a medical intervention, so for me to focus on H.R.T. and G.R.S. stories would not be fair to the largest percentage of you all, as most want to know about a pen pal service, outside help to help with some of the terrible things which happen much too often, to far too many of you and generally wanting a good listener to air their experiences to.

I know that I do have some within the D.O.C. that have been on H.R.T. or were in some other part of their transition before being within the system and that this brings up a whole lot of different challenges that are much too often ignored once they find themselves within the D.O.C. and then that too depends on whether you are within a State or a Federal system.

There are many different organizations and individuals out here that are working very hard to try to improve these conditions and although it may seem like a very slow process, which is what 'change' usually involves. In the last year I have been able to do quite a few presentations within some of the Colorado police dept's to try to pass along a little 'Gender 101' and this has actually been received very well. I have also been able to speak with some 'Officials' at different prisons either by land line phone or sometimes a video chat. And will continue to put more of my efforts into trying to open more doors that may actually have an impact within the prison system.

The world is changing, and so are many of the views of the transgender community. Along with that comes some very promising improvements for those within the prison system. I have seen more improvement in the area of those who are diagnosed with G.I.D. and many now have at least a better chance of treatment than even a few short years ago. There will be a time that with some will have a chance of receiving G.R.S. I would only remind you that even though this and many other wonderful things are happening, that for the actual changes to be put into motion is sometimes two different things.

In the future I am hoping to be able to find even more detailed and interesting articles and news of what may or may not be happening in the outside world that may or may not have a positive affect for the transgender prisoners within the United States and sometimes in other countries. For the ones who are not aware; I have only a limited amount of space (8 pages) in which to fill with this kind of information. With this said, I am not able to use this precious space for some of the very creative poems and art work that I often receive. Please continue to send these as I do save them and enjoy reading and seeing them.

This is the time of year that can be especially hard for so many of you and I'd like you all to know that I do think of you all and send good wishes your way. I wish you each and all the very best as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach.

Teeg



Subscription Information

The TIP Journal is free to all inmates incarcerated in jail or prison. Once paroled, or for those not incarcerated, the newsletter is \$25.00 per year. Once added, you will remain there until paroled or your mail is returned as undeliverable.

Please use this form to ADD or REMOVE yourself from our mailing list:

You must use the name in which you were incarcerated under only.

Name: _____

Prison: _____

ID Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____, _____

- Please add me, I am a prisoner (Free newsletter)
- Please add me, I am not a prisoner (\$25.00/Year)
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Total Subscription Due: \$ _____

There are ways to get to many of the past issues of the TIP Journal but because of the time involved in getting an old one printed, I'll have to ask for a fee but even better yet! If you know someone on the 'outside' with an access to a computer they can look at and download them at;

Gicofcolo.org

Go 7 over at the top of the page to;

'News and updates'

Then towards the top on the bottom right hand corner click on; 'read the GIC TIP Journal'

I wish that I had a dollar for every letter that I receive where someone would like to be added to the data base but I am unable to read the handwriting, or someone maybe forgot to add their 'ID' number and I am not able to get the T.I.P. Journal to them because of this. Please take your time when requesting any information as I have dealt with the D.O.C. for some time now and know that although some of their 'rules' and 'regulations' seem sometimes a bit strange they make the rules and I and all others who enter their world must follow them. I will only use the name in which you are incarcerated under to send the newsletter out. I very often check on this as I can get access to most of the prisons with enough information and do any verifications that I may need to do.

There are many who ask for different information about the different doctors and surgeons who do work with the transgender community and I am unable provide any of that only as a respect to them as most of what you request is public information and all most of these specialists are very busy and have long waiting times for surgery like G.R.S. There are many loopholes that one must go through before setting up a G.R.S. Many states now have enough 'informed' therapists who have some experience with working with the transgender community and I would warn that this is an very good starting point and to very careful before choosing one by checking their background or ask someone who has maybe worked with them as not all who 'specialize' in this are created equality. I have a list of many all over the U.S. that I can personally vouch for, so do your homework! Teeg

About the Tip Journal

Editor :
Teeg TG Spirit

The Transgenders in Prison Journal is put out by the Gender Identity Center of Colorado and the views and opinions within are that of the Editor's alone and not those of the Gender Identity Centers. The G.I.C. kindly provides most of the financing for the publishing and mailing of this Journal and often provides a source for the folding, labeling, and sending of each issue. I/we are always looking for other recourses to help with this very important project.

In the past we use to publish poems and articles that were sent to the T.I.P. Journal but since the rise in cost along with the increase in the demand for this journal we no longer have the space to do so. This is my 5th year in publishing this Journal and from all the feedback that I do receive the overwhelming majority of you want news relating to what is happening to the transgender community within other prisons and what is happening outside that may be either prison or police related. I need to write and report what the majority of you would like to read so although I have not the room in here for these please feel free to continue to send them as I enjoy reading and hearing from you all. Teeg

For those who have suffered abuse !

I am beginning to go through all the many thousands of old letters that I have received over the last many years for a new project that will hopefully help prisoners who have suffered sexual or physical abuse while within the D.O.C. system. The hope is that by You supplying me with any information about attempts of self castration, the withholding of or denial of H.R.T. any sexual or physical abuse due to 'being different' that the people who I will be working with can publish a report that will be read at the highest levels and hopefully will help to create change in the future. I will write more about this later and your names and location will be protected !

Please send all correspondence to:
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P.O. Box 404
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E-mail tgspirit@aol.com

Feds revise medical rules for transgender inmates

Transgender inmates who did not begin treatment prior to entering federal custody can now receive hormones, specialized mental health counseling and possibly gender reassignment surgery while they are in prison, according to new rules adopted by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons as part of a court settlement.

A May 31 memo issued to wardens at the nation's 116 federal prisons and made public by gay rights groups in announcing the settlement Friday states, "current, accepted standards of care" will be applied to inmates who believe they are the wrong gender.

Under the bureau's previous policy, issued in 2005, only federal inmates with a preexisting diagnosis were eligible for transgender-related care, which was limited to treatments that would maintain them "only at the level of change which existed when they were incarcerated."

The new guidelines mean prisoners who were previously disqualified from treatment because they had not received any on the outside will now be eligible to begin hormone therapy to feminize or masculinize their features and to dress and live accordingly as part of individualized treatment plans.

"The treatment plan may include elements or services that were, or were not, provided prior to incarceration, including, but not limited to: those elements of real life experience consistent with the prison environment, hormone therapy and counseling," the memo from bureau medical director Newton Kendig states.

The policy memo does not mention surgical intervention, but National Center for Lesbian Rights Legal Director Shannon Minter said the agreement would permit surgery as a treatment option if prison doctors agree it is necessary for individual inmates.

The May guidance specifically advises wardens that "treatment options will not be precluded solely due to level of services received, or lack of services, prior to incarceration."

That language, as well as the reference to accepted standards of care is significant since the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, the professional organization that issues guidelines for treating gender identity disorders, considers genital reconstruction surgery "essential and medically necessary" for some patients suffering from "gender dysphoria."

Jennifer Levi, director of the Transgender Rights Project at Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, said that because the memo does not prohibit surgery, "It leaves open the possibility that the full range of appropriate medical care must be considered in adopting an individual treatment plan."

"There is no reason why an incarcerated person should be excluded from receiving surgery if it turned out to be medically necessary for that individual," Levi said.

Bureau spokesman Ed Ross said there are currently 48 federal inmates who have been diagnosed with gender identity disorders. Ross did not respond to attempts by The Associated Press on Friday and Monday to clarify other aspects of the policy, including confirmation that inmates could be eligible for sex reassignment surgery that would necessitate their move to a new prison. All state and federal prisons in the United States assign inmates to men's or women's prisons based on their genitalia.

The policy shift resulted from a two-and-a-half-year-old lawsuit seeking hormone therapy for Vanessa Adams, who began serving a 20-year sentence as Nicholas Adams and was diagnosed with gender identity disorder in 2005 by doctors at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Mo.

After she was denied treatment because of the rule requiring previous care for gender identity disorder, Adams, 41, tried to castrate herself with a razor and attempted to and ultimately succeeded in amputating her penis, according to court papers.

Prison officials agreed to put Adams on a course of hormones in August 2009 after a federal judge in Massachusetts, where Adams briefly was imprisoned and her lawsuit was filed, agreed that her lawyers could retain an independent expert to evaluate her. The same judge refused almost a year later to dismiss Adams' claim that the Bureau of Prisons' policy on transgender health care constituted cruel and unusual punishment, a decision that paved the way for the settlement.

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<p>Lambda Legal Locations</p> <p>National Headquarters 129 Wall Street New York, N.Y. 1005-3940</p> <p>Western Regional Office 3325 Wilshire Boulevard Suite 1300 Los Angeles, CA. 90010-1729</p> <p>Midwest Regional Office 11 East Adams Suite 1008 Chicago IL 60603-6303</p> <p>Southern Regional Office 730 Peachtree Street N.E. Suite 1070 Atlanta, GA. 30308-1210</p> <p>South Central Regional Office 3500 Oak Lawn Avenue Suite 500</p> <p>Prison Pen Pals P.O. Box 235 East Berlin, PA. 17136-0235</p> <p>Write A Prisoner .com P.O. Box 10 Edgewater, FL. 32132</p> <p>Prisoner Writes P.O. Box 78 MT. Holly Springs, PA. 17065</p>	<p>American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Aids Project 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor New York, NY 10004</p> <p>Just Detention International 3325 Wilshire Blvd. Suite#340 Los Angeles, CA 90010</p> <p>East coast Office 1025 Vermont Ave. N.W. Third Floor Washington, DC 20005</p> <p>The N.I.C. Project C/O/ Jamie M. Yarussi The Washington College of Law 4801 Massachusetts Ave. N.W. Washington, DC 20016</p> <p>‘A project addressing prison rape’</p> <p>Innocence Project (National) C/O the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law 100 Fifth Ave,3rd Floor New York, N.Y. 10011</p> <p>Only handles cases where post—conviction DNA Testing of evidence can yield conclusive evidence of innocence.</p> <p>Con pals Inmate connections L.C.C. 465 N.E. 181 #308 Portland, OR. 97230</p> <p>Partnership for Safety and Justice P.O. Box 40085 Portland, OR 97240-0085</p>
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The above are some of the resources that may be of help to you including a few that are for a pen pal service which I usually do not supply. I cannot forward any pen pal letters or begin a service here. These are services that I was able to find and hope that you who seek this, find them helpful. As I receive this information I read them before putting them in here and because of space I cannot put all that they do into an issue as some are multi pages long and there is not enough space within the T.I.P. Journal to add all the services that they may offer. If an organization is not listed in here then it is likely I do not have any personal knowledge of it so when I receive some of the many letters which I receive every month suggesting that I add another, I will need an address or web site for them that I may research before considering adding them. You may also have them contact me about adding them to the above listings.. I try to answer as many of the letters as I can and those that include a S.A.S.E. have the best chance of receiving a personal reply which is likely to be in a form letter format with a personal message added. Please try to remember that this is basically a one woman operation and I do read and save each and every letter that I receive. Thank you all for your wonderful support and keep your letters of encouragement coming!

I am also not able to add any of your ‘friends’ to my mailing list without a personal letter from them asking that I do so. I have tried this before but have found that a few have ruined this for the many who do so by trying to add people who do not and had never even showed an interest in receiving an issue. I have had to go through all the people on my list and cross reference with the D.o.C. in which they are held, all the names that use only one initial or any other name that has raised my attention which ended up with me deleting only a small handful. I will now check any information about a name used that may not ‘click’ before I add anyone to the data base. Most of you just about all of you are grateful for what we try to do with this outreach and I very much appreciate that I have only had to remove a few over the last 5+ years because of angry letters or some other offensive feedback and I know that this small percent are not the majority. I look forward to being with you for at least another year.

The agreement also calls for transgender inmates to be notified of the new policies and for prison doctors to be trained to identify and treat gender identity disorders.

Levi said prison officials have typically been hostile to transgender inmates and that she anticipates more legal action to ensure the bureau's policy is put into practice.

Cops: No sex charges against jail guard accused by transgender inmate

A CITY CORRECTIONAL officer who had been accused of sexual assault by a transgender inmate will not be criminally charged, police confirmed yesterday.

The officer also had a disciplinary hearing Thursday, but Prisons Commissioner Louis Giorla hasn't acted on the hearing's recommendations yet, spokeswoman Shawn Hawes said.

The inmate's allegation, made last month, sparked scrutiny of security procedures at Riverside, the city's female jail, because officials learned that the inmate, Jovanie Saldana, spent 14 months there despite having male genitalia. Prison policy requires inmates to be housed by "anatomical gender" regardless of how they identify, meaning that Saldana - who had long hair, arched eyebrows and cleavage when arrested in June 2010 - should have been jailed in a male facility.

Authorities discovered the goof when they investigated Saldana's claim that a male correctional officer forced Saldana to perform oral sex on him. Police spokeswoman Officer Christine O'Brien said yesterday that detectives closed their investigation into that claim this week without charging the correctional officer. She didn't have details on the case, and Capt. John Darby, commander of the Special Victims Unit, couldn't be reached for comment.

Saldana, 23, now is being housed in a male jail separate from the general population, awaiting trial on Oct. 31 in an unrelated aggravated assault case.

That no one noticed Saldana's genitalia, despite multiple strip searches and at least two medical exams, concerned prison officials, who noted that thorough strip and cavity searches are the prison system's primary weapons against contraband.

While the case cost officials embarrassment and headaches, it soon could cost taxpayers money.

Jabreena Barnett, a female inmate who shared a cell with Saldana for five weeks, has filed a claim against the city seeking unspecified damages, alleging that Saldana and city officials violated her civil rights and privacy by forcing her to live with a man.

Barnett, 34, said she told several correctional officers of her doubts about Saldana's anatomical gender but never filed a formal complaint.

"There was definitely something off - she had big calves, broad shoulders, no butt - but she had a lot of feminine ways," Barnett said, adding that Saldana hid behind a chair when using the toilet and wore undergarments to the shower.

Barnett accused Saldana of grabbing her breasts to express admiration for them, a claim her attorney said demonstrates sexual harassment and unwanted touching.

"I find it hard to believe, no matter what kind of magician you are, unless this person had a sex change, that somebody didn't know about this," her attorney Brian Humble said.

Nov. 20th is the Transgender Day of Remembrance this year will be the 13th that this day has been set aside to memorialize those who have been killed due to hate or prejudice. Events are now held in over 200 cities in the United States and in over 25 Countries.

F.Y.I.; Colorado was the first State to convict a person of a hate crime in the murder of a transgender person when they found Allen Andrade guilty of the brutal murder of 18 y.o. Angie Zapata. I was able to attend this trial daily and hope that I never have attend a murder trial again. Please keep this and all the family's in mind when you take the time to reflect on Nov.20th. Teeg

Inmate loses bid for taxpayer-paid sex-change operation

Lyralisa Stevens, who was born male but lives as a female, had asked the state to pay for the removal of her male genitalia.

A transgender California inmate has lost a legal bid for a sex-change operation at taxpayer expense.

Lyralisa Stevens, who was born male but lives as a female, is serving 50 years to life for killing a San Bernardino County woman with a shotgun in a dispute over clothes. On Wednesday, the 1st District Court of Appeal in San Francisco denied the 42-year-old prisoner's surgery request, ending — at least for now — her two-year legal battle to force the state to pay for removal of her male genitalia.

Her attorney is considering whether to appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Had Stevens prevailed, California would have been the first state in the U.S. required to provide sexual reassignment surgery for an inmate diagnosed with gender identity disorder. The operation typically costs \$15,000 to \$50,000, depending on the complexity of the procedure.

Like many other states, California provides hormones to transgender inmates who were receiving such therapy before their incarceration. Hormone treatments generally cost about \$1,000 a year per recipient.

Stevens had argued that hormone therapy is no longer adequate to combat the emotional distress caused by her disorder, making surgery the medically necessary next step. She also wanted her penis and testicles removed so corrections authorities, who decide prison placement according to an inmate's genitalia, would be compelled to transfer her to the relative safety of a women's lockup.

Stevens, who has a slight build and silicone injections to feminize her physique, said in a court filing that she feels under constant threat of sexual assault in a men's prison.

Alison Hardy, Stevens' attorney, acknowledged that a victory in her client's case was always a long shot but said the court's decision still came as a disappointment.

"Fifteen years ago, hormones weren't prescribed in California prisons, either," Hardy said. "We were hoping to...establish a beach-head."

Hardy said Stevens spends most of her time alone in her cell at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. "She has not been outside in over a year because she is not safe out on the yard...and she has to be very careful about when she showers."

The court on Wednesday said Stevens was reasonably safe in a men's prison as long as she is housed in a single cell but promised to hear her petition again if her living arrangement changes or her "safety is otherwise compromised."

Court Rules Against Ban On Inmates' Hormone Treatment

A federal appeals court has struck down a Wisconsin state ban on hormone therapy for transgender prison inmates, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The state passed the law, called the Inmate Sex Change Prevention Act, in 2005 after a political frenzy erupted over media reports that taxpayers were subsidizing sex changes, according to New York Law School professor Arthur Leonard. (Read his analysis of the court's ruling here.)

"We don't believe the Constitution requires prison officials to provide hormone therapy and sexual reassignment surgery to prisoners," Steven Means, the state's executive assistant attorney general, told the Journal Sentinel in a report on Friday.

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A D.C. Department of Corrections officer is under investigation for making death threats against two women, one of them a transgender inmate.

The officer allegedly threatened to kill the transgender inmate and an activist that works with transgender individuals after the pair complained to authorities that the officer was harassing the inmate and behaving in a trans-phobic manner.

Metropolitan police are looking into the threat, which the transgender woman says occurred at the Department of Corrections' Central Detention Facility on D Street SE. "You're going to threaten someone's life in the District of Columbia, we take it very seriously," says Assistant Police Chief Peter Newsham.

"We went over to the jail and interviewed a number of people and I think we're gathering information at this point," Newsham says. "I can't tell you what the final outcome will be."

Activist Earline Budd, who presents sensitivity training courses on transgender issues to corrections officers, was the other target of the alleged death threat, although she did not hear the threat herself.

"I did not directly receive the threats," Budd says. "It was indirectly that I was told about the threats."

Budd declined to identify the officer that made the threat but says it came from a 20-year veteran of the corrections department that has participated in one of her sensitivity courses. Budd adds that jail authorities have reached out to her.

"What I do know, which I got from a conference call, is that the Department of Corrections has a zero tolerance against any type of discrimination against transgendered inmates in the jail," she says.

Corrections authorities would not comment on the specifics of the case, but in a statement to WAMU, say the officer has been re-signed pending the outcome of their inquiry.

This is now the third investigation of a D.C. law enforcement officer for violence against a transgender woman in recent months.

Metropolitan Police Officer Kenneth Furr now sits in that same corrections facility, accused of shooting five people inside a car while off duty and in plainclothes earlier this month. Furr wounded three people, two of them transgender women.

And another MPD officer is under investigation for severely beating a transgender woman, also while off duty and in plainclothes, according to activists.

Hormone Treatment Cont from page 6

Means said the state was considering its litigation options in light of the ruling.

In defending the statute, the state argued that alternative means of treatment, including anti-depressant medications and psychotherapy, would still be made available to inmates in need.

But the court wrote in its decision that, had the legislature passed a law saying "inmates with cancer must be treated only with therapy and painkillers, this court would have no trouble concluding that the law was unconstitutional."

The court also rejected arguments that the provision of hormone therapy would entail security risks in the prison system by pointing to evidence that "transgender inmates may be targets for violence even without hormones."

The Wisconsin law was unusual for instituting an absolute ban on these kinds of treatments, including even those who had come into prison diagnosed with gender identity disorder and had already been receiving treatment when the law was passed, Leonard adds.

Eye on Equality: Protection is first priority for transgender prisoners

Rep. Tom Hooker last week introduced a bill that would outlaw the use of public funds to pay for sex reassignment surgery for incarcerated people, among others. Hooker didn't bother checking with the Michigan Department of Corrections on whether such surgeries have ever even been performed for prisoners (the answer is - wait for it - never!), whether the department already has a policy covering the provision of such medical services to prisoners (it does), or whether his proposed bill would even pass constitutional muster were it enacted as law (it wouldn't; see Wisconsin's big fail in this arena). With his complete failure to conduct even cursory research before proposing his bill, Hooker's presumed motivation becomes clear. He hopes to earn a name on the backs of the most vulnerable and marginalized people he can, not just targeting prisoners (as is often done by opportunists), but by targeting transgender prisoners, who are the most vulnerable prison population. Hooker confirmed his bigoted motivation when aligning himself with the American Family Association and Gary Glenn, the head of the AFA's Michigan chapter.

To be clear, MDOC has already laid out policies surrounding medical treatment and housing for transgender inmates. The policy directive covers hormone treatment, which is generally allowed if the prisoner was receiving such treatment prior to incarceration or upon recommendation of the chief medical officer, and sex reassignment surgery, which is generally not allowed except in extreme circumstances and if approved by the chief medical officer. As for placement, transgender prisoners are housed according to the gender assigned at birth unless the individual in question has undergone sex reassignment surgery. This means that prisoners who identify as female can and do end up in male prisons, even if they have a stereotypically feminine appearance, as is true of prisoners who identify as male. Considering the many reasons that some transgender individuals choose not to have surgery, or for whom surgery has never been an option, the result is that transgender prisoners are trapped where their bodies and their safety are in a constant state of limbo.

The road to prison for transgender men and women is well worn. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth are far more likely to end up homeless at a young age (around 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBT). They experience increased rates of incarceration prior to adjudication, higher rates of unemployment, higher rates of drug use and depression, and are far less likely to find shelter due to outright rejection. Ending this bleak string of statistics is the increased incarceration rate for gender variant and transgender people in general. According to the Transgender, Gender Variant and Intersex Justice Project, approximately 65 percent of transgender women in San Francisco spent time in prison or jail, as did 29 percent of transgender men. Once in prison, transgender people are disproportionately targeted for abuse. Within the prison hierarchy, those with traits perceived to be stereotypically masculine hold a privileged status, while those with traits stereotypically associated with femininity are devalued and subject to abuse. A study of six California prisons found that 67 percent of respondents who identified as LGBT reported sexual assault by another inmate (this was 15 times higher than the rest of the prison population). Prisons, as is true of other institutions, have a shameful history when it comes to treatment of transgender people. Though prisons have come a long way in the U.S., transgender and gay prisoners are still preyed upon and, in most prisons, struggle for survival. It is unlikely that a facility for transgender prisoners with drug or prostitution offenses, such as the one built near Florence, Italy, will be built here any time soon.

A number of steps can be taken to further protect transgender and gay prisoners from abuse in prisons. Recommendations by organizations such as Just Detention International are an excellent example of what corrections facilities can and should do to protect LGBT-identified or perceived inmates. These recommendations include housing guidelines (including separating violent offenders from non-violent offenders) as well as protocols for staff training. The Michigan Department of Corrections has taken a healthy approach to the incarceration of LGBT individuals. Rep. Hooker's bigoted bill not only undermines the responsive action of MDOC, but the bill - if passed - would further unconstitutionally erode protections for an already vulnerable group.

Are you aware that the United States has more people within their prisons than Russia and China combined ? I actually watch most of the 'specials' that have to do with prisons and incarceration that I find and also do a lot of reading. I have even seen some of you on the television and have seen many of you referred to in print. Since I had taken over the job as publisher of the T.I.P. Journal I think it only right that I try to learn as much about all this as I can. This issue here will probably be the last one that you receive till the Spring of 2012 and I sincerely apologize for that once again. I would normally put out a Christmas edition but with you all receiving this one so close to that, I will not be putting out a Winter issue either. I have had a long talk with myself and we have agreed that I will continue to put out the T.I.P. Journal for at least another year and that in 2012 there will be 4 of them ,and they will be in time. I will also be writing up another newer version of my 'form' letter which I always save a half of a page to try to hand write a little something as I try very hard to respond to the many letters that I receive and the best chance one has for a reply is to send a S.A.S.E. If I were to try to answer all that I receive the cost to do so would exceed the cost of putting out the Journal! The form letter is two pages long and already address many of the issues that most write to me about. Please continue to be as safe as you can and to try to make the very best of what I know is a very terrible situation for you all. I also hope to have some new recourses for you in the next issue and please feel free to tell me the correct font, and size that I should be using as I am now 'conditioned ! Teeg