

Today our family would be celebrating my deceased daughter, Mia, 45th birthday. Instead we're here today to help and guide you to reach the right decisions.

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to speak to this committee today. Our family, like many others, realizes you are facing very difficult challenges set before you with regards to the prison system reforms.

I'm here today to share a message with all of you. My message speaks to all of you about the lack of proper medical treatment and facilities needed for the bi-polar prisoners. Many of these prisoners have been previously diagnosed with this disease prior to their incarceration.

As we all know, the need for these prisoners' correct medications is of vital importance for their survival. In most cases the state has cut back on providing the prescribed medications and substitutions given to them, which do not work as effectively.

My appeal to you is to seek out financial resources to provide the proper medical facilities and correct medications for all the bi-polar prisoners.

Also to better educate the administration and staff to carefully review each prisoner's psychiatric history upon admission to the prison system.

My message is to look closely at the situation within the walls of the prison system, so that no other family has to endure the horrific tragedy and pain and suffering our family is experiencing.

