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Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

Testimony:

To the committee,

I am not one to complain about every little thing. I know we are in prison not the Hilton, but I do think that we inmates should have without issue the essentials. I don't think I should have to complain about the horrible quality of the food, the lack of clean clothing, the condition of the drinking water, the lack of heat in the winter, the unsanitary conditions of the kitchen, and the lack of rehabilitation.

Last winter, I had NO heat whatsoever in my cell, and neither did 1/2 my block. Meanwhile the other half was being overwhelmed by heat. Other blocks were without heat entirely. This year is the same. Most cells no heat, other cells scorching hot. I have what looks like black mold in my cell and we have mold building up in our shower area, and leaking water everywhere.

Our food is atrocious. I eat a diet of mainly peanut butter and jelly sandwiches 2 x's a day for probably 4 or 5 days a week because the food is so disgusting, or if it is decent we only get a spoonful of it. We get plenty of instant mashed potatoes or rice but just a scoop of whatever protein is served. How is it that in the 1980's and 90's when the inmate population was bigger the food was excellent, but now it's mainly things that look less appealing than the Farmers Dogfood commercials? And how sanitary is it to have rats and mice defecating everywhere, climbing everywhere and how is it passing health inspection?

I have to hand wash all my clothes because the laundry is so horrific. Our clothes are put in bags by ourselves and sent to laundry. They are supposed to be taken out of the bag and washed with bleach and laundry detergent. Unfortunately my clothes are left in the tight bag with no room to move and get clean and is piled up with 30 or 50 other guys' bags, guys with feces on their boxers, puke on their sheets, urine on their pants, and bodily fluids on their boxers all mixed with mine and they use practically NO bleach, and little detergent to the point where our clothes come back brown!!!! After 2 trips to laundry my bright white t-shirts and boxers and socks will be brown and dingy and probably coated in other people's fecal matter!!

We are supposed to get 3 clean boxers, shirts, and socks every 6 months (it's in the budget) but we NEVER get any. We wear the same things for years and years.

My water is not right. It is gritty and I have to boil it every day! I haven't drunk a plain cup of water in years. I have to buy juice packs every week to mix in because we have to subconsciously mask what we are drinking.

I don't understand how people expect change from us when we get out when we are just locked in our cages 20 hours a day! Guys were not meant to live with someone else who we never would have chosen to live with, guys with horrendously poor hygiene, unpredictable mental health, or crazy drug habits that get us jammed up and punished for.

Why don't we have programs to better ourselves? Why are there so few jobs to better ourselves? We could be helping society by producing things but instead we are cattle in small pens, draining your pockets.

And it is in the public's best interest to investigate where all that tax money is going!!! Look into what is

spent on food and how all the good things that are ordered never reach us!!! Look into the clothing budget and why we don't see any of it or the bedding!!! Look into the budget for the Gym and the supplies that we don't see!!! Look into the cleaning supplies we are supposed to get! Look into how much is spent on CO overtime, and then look at how we are locked down or restricted almost every weekend from Spring to Winter because of call outs!! Look into how the Co's are sleeping or hanging out, or looking on their phones, or eating in the block for the majority of their shifts. All of which are not allowed.

Look into how much of your tax money was spent in 2024 and 2025 on ambulance rides because of K2 overdoses!! Look into how much is budgeted for maintenance but we have plastic bags hanging in every utility closet in between our cells in the North blocks for deflecting leaking water from hitting old frayed wires.

There is a ton of other issues but these are things that should not need to be complained about. Prison is our punishment, but we are not meant to suffer everyday in all aspects of our being. We don't expect steak and lobster, but we should have solid foods, not slop. We shouldn't have things that over 50 percent of us just throws away. We should have decent drinking water. We should be able to have clean clothes and linens. We should have mold free cells and showers. We should be let out more often, to do things to better ourselves. This is not rehabilitation, and I'd rather have gotten the death penalty than live like this for 40 years. I am a waste of space and money. That is a sad thing in the richest state in the richest country!!