

Good evening members of the Corrections Advisory Committee,

My husband is currently incarcerated at Cheshire Correctional Institution and I am here to testify on his behalf.

My husband was brutally assaulted in MacDougall by C.O John Annear. During a code that involved my husband, CO Annear punched him in the head with handcuffs used as brass knuckles, for simply shrugging the CO off of him because he was twisting my husband's finger with the intent to break it. My husband was handcuffed, completely defenseless and the assault was deemed unprovoked. This is C.O Annear's THIRD serious assault on an inmate. Upon returning from administrative leave for the incident, he was not to have contact with my husband, I went to visit and he was in the visiting room, he not only wrote hearts on his institutional pass but stood behind my husband the whole entire visit. C.O Annear taunted not only me but my husband as well. He purposely tried to antagonize my husband by standing directly behind him leaning against the pillar. There was no accountability on the DOC's end to ensure that my husband would be safe and this created an unsafe environment.

For years my husband has suffered with Deep Vein Thrombosis, in 2025, he went through testing and ultrasounds to show that his condition that would have only been one surgery is now FIVE surgeries because it had gotten so bad. This directly violates his rights to adequate healthcare and is considered medical neglect. We finally were able to get an estimate of his surgery timeline only after consistently being a thorn in the side of the head nurse at Cheshire CI and Deputy Warden Demitz and a 13 day hunger strike that was ignored until I reached out on my husband's behalf.

The biggest concern is the lack of accountability and retaliation that occurs during the day to day operations. C.O Annear should not have been allowed near anyone that quickly since he is historically known for assaulting inmates and creating an unsafe environment. He should have never been able to assault my husband with handcuffs being used as brass knuckles since there were multiple C.O's who responded to that code and should have stopped him when they realized what he was doing. C.O Annear needs to be held accountable. While the DOC is protecting their own, who is protecting my husband and all the other men and women incarcerated? Who is ensuring that they are in a safe environment while in the custody of the correctional officers? The correctional officers only face minimal consequences while families have to be on edge not knowing if the CO's are truly ensuring their loved ones safety. Incarcerated individuals deserve safe living conditions.

These matters need to be solved and accountability needs to be taken and with Attorney Ward's findings in these correctional facilities, the issues are critical.

Thank you