

Good afternoon, members of the Correction Advisory Committee.

My name is Kevin Epps, and I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony.

I have just returned from a three-day ordeal at UConn Health. I was admitted because my foot became severely swollen. I underwent a procedure to remove a cyst that was preventing the antibiotics from reaching the infection in my leg. I received several rounds of IV antibiotics before being returned to the facility.

I believe I got this infection from the inmate who was housed in the cell with me. He is still in the hospital. The infection I am being treated for is strep.

DOC knew this person was infected and housed him with me without taking any precautions or giving me any warning about his condition.

They did not check on him to make sure his open wounds were being treated.

They did not make sure he was taking his antibiotics so the infection would not spread.

I told staff this inmate was infected and needed help. I told them I wanted him moved, or I wanted to be moved out of the cell.

They did not listen.

Because of that complete indifference, I am now the one dealing with the consequences.

I had to undergo a surgical procedure where my leg had to be cut open.

I now have an open wound in my leg that requires packing, dressing changes, and continued treatment as it heals. I fear that the wound will become infected again despite the facility's best efforts now.

This did not have to happen. I raised my concerns before I became sick. I asked for help before I ended up in the hospital.

Instead of taking precautions to protect my health and safety, my concerns were ignored until I suffered a serious infection that required surgery.

I respectfully ask this Committee to examine why known infectious medical conditions are not taken more seriously, why incarcerated people who raise legitimate health and safety concerns are ignored, and what steps will be taken to prevent this from happening to someone else.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and for giving me a voice.