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To Whom It May Concern:

I have been incarcerated for 9 yrs. and during that time I have watched many changes take place in the prison system. Many policy changes have occurred and while I realize this is necessary and there is always a reason for the actions I also realize that some of them are taken completely out of context with very little fore thought and just as little thought given to possible and probable repercussions.

When policies and rules are changed there is no consideration given to the fact that you have men and women who are in prison. While I also realize that it is easier to make rules for all the facilities why is there no consideration given to the fact that women's needs are much different than mens? And while I am aware that the different warden's have at their discretion to alter regulations to fit the needs of their facilities all that just seems to fall by the side when you have a warden who feels that even the least variance facilitates what has come to be known as "choosing a battle" rather than just saying this does not fit our needs and I will make allowances for this.

I was told years ago that any changes that are to take place are to be posted by way of memo 30 days prior to the action occurring. This doesn't happen! I know that the world is changing both inside and outside the fences of a prison. I know that needs, regulations, guidelines, etc. all have to change in order for facilities to meet what is required for them to continue to get their precious funding to keep the facilities running. But when all that takes precedence over the fact that we are still human and need and deserve certain things then there is definitely a problem!

I know the general opinion is that we are just inmates and deserve nothing. But most of us still have self respect. Our brains still function although some choose not to use them wisely and for good. And the outside world thinks of prison as a place of rehabilitation until we are ready to be released back into society which most strongly object to. But the only rehabilitation you receive in here is what you are willing to give yourself!. So if all the rules do is continue to take more and more from us and policy is left strictly to interpretation by the person looking at it at the time then what is the

point in having it. It's not followed or used for it's intended purpose for the most part anyway. But not only are we as inmates punished our families are also punished. They are severely restricted as to what they can and can not do where we are concerned also. Just for them to visit us they have to jump through hoops as if they are also locked up. And now if they require the use of oxygen they can't visit! Does anyone out there understand DISCRIMINATION and the AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT?????

As an inmate I have battled the system for 6 yrs. over a disability before finally being taken seriously enough to get a portion of what is needed to help myself. This has come at a great price to me emotionally and physically but we have to be more concerned about how many bowls, toothbrushes, combs/brushes, etc. an inmate has verses serious needs of those and their families. As a person loosing their sight I was told 6 yrs. ago by the commissioner that it is not another inmates responsibility to help me if needed. That this constitutes legal issues. Yet I am constantly told that they are too short staffed to assist me when needed to get my roommate or another inmate to help me. And they actually put such things in writing and sign off on them. I have enclosed copies of such things for you to see in addition to a letter and documentation I have personally sent out to other people in charge about certain concerns.

Being locked up you have few avenues of help or resources you can use to help with such matters. The ACLU and other agencies only take very high profile cases and we have no advocates on these issues. While we are able to file grievances you always have the presence of retaliation even though we all know "that's not suppose to happen" and writing letters to the commissioner who in return just sends it all back to your warden and you get no results.

We need a voice or several voices on the outside that care enough about what is going on in the prisons in this state to help us. I'm not asking for miracles, just advocates who are willing to listen to us about our needs and concerns and are willing to take those to the people in charge to help us negotiate acceptable solutions for everyone concerned. I am hoping that if you are not that person or organization you will at least be able to put me in touch with people who are. I am only one person but if I can find help out there there are others in here who will join me in the battle to get some logical solutions rather than just constantly creating more chaos and confusion in the system that does not have to occur.

Thank you for your time and I pray I will hear from you with some

suggestions, help or other avenues for me to write to.

Janice Wilson

Governor Bredesen,

I have been locked up for 9 yrs. and am serving a life sentence. Over the last 9 yrs. I have watched many changes take place in the running of the facilities. I understand completely that the reason for "MO&T" changes is due to some inmate taking some kind of action that makes a new regulation/rule necessary. Unfortunately not many people locked up understand that their actions will cause the rest of us to have to pay the price. Especially those of us who may never leave from here.

For as long as I have been incarcerated I have watched more and more be taken from us both in property, privileges and commissary. But if the Commissioner's Personal Property list policy is given serious consideration I have no doubt you will find that we have a few items that need serious reconsideration!!

Supposedly starting in Sept. of 2006 there is to be a new property screening procedure for inmates. I am told it is to be state wide but starting with TDFW. I have enclosed a copy of the information given as to what we are to be accountable for at all times. Jewelry, appliances, medical equipment, musical instruments have always been items we are accountable for. And according to the property list we know that hygiene items are also items that are to be limited. My problem with that portion of the list is this: 1 bowl, 1 cup, 1 pair of nail clippers and the hairbrush, combs and pics, 1 toothbrush. If you drop your toothbrush in the toilet accidentally you have to wait a week to order a new one and hope that the commissary will have them in stock! Who wants to go a week without brushing their teeth??? Nail clippers - they make fingernail and toenail clippers for a reason. Some people can not clip their toe nails with a finger nail clipper. We are limited to making a choice between the 2 and that is not an item you want to borrow from someone as that is a very easy way to contract fungus or hepatitis. We are no longer able to get emery boards to file down ragged or torn nails so we have no solution to this problem as the commissioner's list doesn't allow for these problems. As for brushes and combs - I understand that most of the men only need a brush and a comb and in some cases not even that as they prefer to be bald. Women are different!! We need both and some of us also have the need for the hair pic. We are no longer able to order those but those of us who were here when we could get them still have them. Why are we being forced to make a choice and give that up as long as it all fits into the 6 cubic ft. requirement rule??? And last but definitely not least - 1 bowl and 1 cup!! We are sold items on