

Public Comment 12/29/2020

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To: PressRoom Nevada Health Response <PressRoom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov>

Good Morning, my name is Jenna and I am here today with Return Strong! Families United to ask the task force to help us take a much more serious look at the various opportunities for compassionate release, and home confinement which are both NDOC approved programs that are not being implemented to reduce the prison population during the pandemic. This is a portion of a letter from an incarcerated person at HDSP.

"To me, COVID is being used to treat inmates like animals. This is a zoo where animals are just kept in cages. Medical personnel has said there will be no medical or dental services until after the first of the year. No doctor appointments. Prescription meds are always late. Timely care doesn't exist at High Desert. In order to get any help you have to call for a man down (this is supposed to get us urgent medical care) but it comes at a cost most of us can't afford. I have experienced a worsening of condition due to non-treatment. One person has died due to no treatment, and another was under medical watch after numerous man downs for chest pains and not getting his nitroglycerin. Luckily a CO saw he was in distress and gave CPR while medical staff watched. An inmate hung himself during the 27-day quarantine. We never saw mental health."

NDOC offers a home confinement program that I would qualify for, if they would allow people to even be considered for it. The applications are impossible to get and it takes forever to be processed. We are asking the Governor's office to hold NDOC accountable and initiate an independent investigation into the conditions within NDOC, and to sign an executive order to expedite the movement of eligible people into compassionate release, home confinement and to work to remove barriers to their release with community support and partners. Thank You.