

**Name:** Robert Bullock

**Title:**

**Organization or Agency:**

**Topic:** Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

**Testimony:**

My name is Robert Bullock and I have been incarcerated for going on thirteen and a half years now. Throughout this time I have experienced the multiple horrible effects of not having access to an independent agency which prisoners can bring complaints as well grievances to.

For instance, I had an issue with a Lt. who violated my rights when I voiced my complaint about a C/O who threatened me. Instead of creating a safe environment/space for me in which I could feel comfortable to resolve an issue between me and an officer, I was instead placed in Administrative Segregation for telling my grandma, who called the prison after I let her know what was going on. After that I was repeatedly retaliated by unnecessary shake downs of my cell in which only my property was consistently thrown on the floor. Instead of handling this situation fairly I was carted off to segregation for making a valid complaint in which they used my words of my grandma saying I felt uncomfortable and unsafe to do so. I had no recourse to get this issue rectified, and had to spend a whole weekend in solitary confinement for just exercising my rights as a human being given that I had no outside agency which could scrutinize D.O.C handling of my situation weeks before this incident.

On another occasion while at CCI the hot water in the showers was not working for months and although we continued to complain as well as follow the chain of command to address this bone chilling issue (given that it was now well into the winter months), we kept being denied our rights to access to water which was suitable to shower in without risking catching pneumonia by doing so. Having someone like the Ombudsman, specifically Ms. Barbara Fair, to investigate this issue could have saved a lot of my fellow prisoners as well as myself from suffering the cruel choice of skipping getting into the shower for the day because of the ice coldness of them.

Furthermore, I believe that Mrs. Barbara Fair is the best qualified candidate because she has not only demonstrated that she is deeply concerned about prisoners rights, by being heavily involved in the passage of the " Protect Act," also she has shown that she can be objective as well as reach across the aisle by reaching an agreement that didn't stop solitary confinement completely but shorten the duration time of it.

On another note, although I never heard of the other candidates I know they must be qualified for the role if this CAC committee recommended all three of them. However, for me I can trust Ms. Barbara Fair to stand up for equal justice because although I never met her personally, I have witnessed her in the news advocating for my rights, sacrificing her time, her spirit, as well as highlighting her pain for the whole State as well as the world to see her passion as well as commitment to bettering the prison conditions of incarcerated individuals. Actually I'm living the benefits of her commitment by not being exposed to long days and nights in segregation as well as having access to more out of cell time which has been helping me cope better with being in a space like prison which really can have a harsh impact on your spirit and mental health.

Lastly, I would say that her credentials in clinical social work also makes her a great candidate because since she is someone who has the training of social worker she has a wholistic approach of what is good for the whole community instead of just a select group of people. She deeply understands how unfair treatment of one group of people by another just continues to feed more resentment rather than healing, which is what is really needed. She is someone who is able to bring divided groups together to do what's best for all who will be impacted in some way or fashion.

Thank you for hearing what I have to say and I hope that Ms. Barbara Fair is the recommended choice for this role because she has proven that she cares about my abject conditions while incarcerated.

Robert Bullock