

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL FACILITYVACAVILLE, CA 95696-2000
(707) 448-6841

August 7, 1996

Judy Greenspan
Catholic Charities of the East Bay
433 Jefferson Street
Oakland, CA. 94607

Dear Judy,

I received your letter dated July 26 in which you raise concerns about the services being provided to the Unit IV transgender community. I am disappointed that you have once again taken a stand on an issue without fully investigating it. As always, I am more than willing to discuss with you any and all of your concerns relative to the inmate/patients under my care. Perhaps you can defer final judgment until we have spoken.

In case you haven't heard, our hospice has recently been approved to increase from ten to seventeen beds. Additionally, we have hired eight (8) hospice aides, who will help us continue to provide compassionate and dignified care to these men who are turned down for 1170-D. We empathize with your efforts to liberalize the release policy, but hope that you focus on changing the laws governing compassionate release and not castigating the caregivers.

We have also been very aggressive with the use of antiretroviral and viral load testing at California Medical Facility. Our patients have been offered the new medications promptly after FDA approval, and we have had some very encouraging results. From what I can determine, few if any other state correctional systems have moved so rapidly in this area.

We were disappointed that you chose not to attend our recent awards banquet for our pastoral care inmate workers. It was well attended by family and staff, and quite moving.

We also missed you at the recent celebration held for Dr. Maissonet in San Francisco. He was surrounded by people who love him and it was quite beautiful. He is very ill and it is unlikely that he will make it out to California again.

In any case, feel free to call me to clarify your concerns. I hope you have recovered from surgery and are adjusting to parenthood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Bick".

J. Bick, MD