

EXHIBIT 2

From: Peter Martel

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 3:25 PM

To: Howard, Jeremy F. (MDOC) <HowardJ15@michigan.gov>; BushJ2@michigan.gov <BushJ2@michigan.gov>

Cc: Keith Barber <KBarber@legislature.mi.gov>; Mira Edmonds <edmondm@umich.edu>; deblabelle@aol.com <deblabelle@aol.com>; Victoria Burton-Harris <burtonharrisv@washtenaw.org>; savite@washtenaw.org <savite@washtenaw.org>; Stephanie Chang <Schang@senate.michigan.gov>; Sue Shink <SShink@senate.michigan.gov>; Jeff Irwin <Jlrwin@senate.michigan.gov>; The Office of Senator Santana <SenSSantana@senate.michigan.gov>; Osher, Daniel <OsherD@michigan.gov>; Cherepon, Hailey <ChereponH@michigan.gov>; AnnBollin@house.mi.gov <AnnBollin@house.mi.gov>; JenniferConlin@house.mi.gov <JenniferConlin@house.mi.gov>; Jimmie Wilson Jr. <Jimmiewilsonjr@gmail.com>; SarahLightner@house.mi.gov <SarahLightner@house.mi.gov>; KellyBreen@house.mi.gov <KellyBreen@house.mi.gov>

Subject: Body Cams Active During Strip Searches at Women's Huron Valley

Dear Warden Howard and Deputy Director Bush:

It has come to our attention that the MDOC has recently implemented body cams inside the prisons. Our office is already receiving complaints from WHV because **officers are wearing body cams with a green light activated while conducting strip searches of women**. This is an atrocious practice and is a violation of [MCL 750.539j](#), which is a felony punishable by up to 5 years and/or a \$5000 fine for every violation of the law. Corrections officers do not qualify as peace officers under the §5 exception to this law. See [MCL 750.215](#) §5 for the statutory definition of “peace officer.”

Strip searches are done after every shift where a woman is working as either a Prisoner Observation Aide (assisting women who are on suicide watch) or as a Prisoner Palliative Care Aide (assisting women who are in the infirmary in the MDOC’s “CHOICES” palliative care program). Now that these strip searches are being done by officers who are wearing body cams that have green lights glowing, indicating they are active, we are already hearing from women who are resigning from those positions because **they are sexual violence victims who are being re-victimized by having their bodies recorded without consent**.

Strip searches are also done after every visit, regardless of whether there are any indicia of evidence to believe the person is attempting to smuggle contraband into the facility—even though the visiting room is monitored by corrections officers and video surveillance, and that visitors are searched for contraband while they are entering the facility.

Corrections staff should not be wearing cameras during strip searches, while observing women in showers, or in any situation where the person is in a state of undress or undergarments. It is against the law.

They are incarcerated, but their bodies are not actually property of the state.

I have three requests:

1. Please stop this horrific practice immediately.
2. Please make a facility-wide announcement that staff will no longer be wearing body cameras in situations where incarcerated individuals are in their undergarments or a state of undress, and
3. Please allow anyone who has left their job because of this practice to return to work without any demotion, reduction in pay, seniority, or other benefits.

Thank you in advance for your time, consideration, and anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Warm regards,

Peter J. Martel
AFSC, Deputy Director