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Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

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December 21, 2018

Hugh J. Hurwitz
Acting Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First St., NW
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Acting Director Hurwitz:

I strongly urge you to implement the Department of Justice (DOJ) Inspector General's (IJ) recommendation that the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) "[c]larify guidance on the distribution of feminine hygiene products to ensure sufficient access to the amount of products inmates need free of charge." This recommendation appears in the DOJ IG report, "Review of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Management of Its Female Inmate Population," published on September 18, 2018.

I appreciate BOP's willingness to issue an Operations Memorandum requiring the provision of feminine hygiene products at no cost to female inmates,ⁱⁱ as a response to my request to Attorney General Loretta Lynch on July 19, 2016.ⁱⁱⁱ

However, the recent DOJ IG report states:

"...BOP must also appropriately manage female inmates' distinct needs related to feminine hygiene. During our fieldwork, we found that the distribution methods for feminine hygiene products and the type of products provided to inmates free of charge varied by institution and did not always ensure that inmates had access to a quantity of products sufficient to meet their needs. Even though BOP issued an Operations Memorandum on the Provision of Feminine Hygiene Products (Operations Memorandum) expanding the availability of products, which appears to have made some important improvements, we note that the policy lacked specificity in how institutions should distribute the products."^{iv}

Today, President Trump signed the First Step Act into law, which mandates that tampons and sanitary napkins be made available to each inmate in a manner sufficient to her needs. I applaud this step forward. However, without further guidance from BOP on how to implement this

policy, female inmates will continue to receive disparate access to feminine hygiene products based on their institution.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I am happy to work with you to ensure that all female inmates receive feminine hygiene products at no cost and in sufficient amounts to address their needs.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng
Member of Congress

ⁱ <https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2018/c1805.pdf> (page 43)

ⁱⁱ <https://www.bop.gov/policy/om/003-2018.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ [https://meng.house.gov/sites/meng.house.gov/files/Meng%20Letter%20to%20AG%20Lynch%20re%20fhp%20Jul](https://meng.house.gov/sites/meng.house.gov/files/Meng%20Letter%20to%20AG%20Lynch%20re%20fhp%20July%202016.pdf)

^{iv} <https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2018/c1805.pdf> (page 29)