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To: Danny VaratDannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov  
Date: 5/17/2018 11:12:26 AM  
Subject: Draft for Britton-Harr

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Please review the draft language below.

"Good Morning Patrick,

Yesterday, Catherine McNicoll, the Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs in my office was able to meet with Director Bryan Stirling and his staff from the Department of Corrections about your concerns. Unfortunately, I was unable to be at the meeting. Catherine has briefed me on the information provided by Dept. of Corrections and below are some of the major takeaways from the meeting.

- The Dept. of Corrections tests all inmates at intake for infectious disease including HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) , and Syphilis. They also test inmates for Hepatitis C (Hep C) if they are on dialysis, are HIV positive, or have elevated liver enzymes.
- They provide all inmates with the T-Dap vaccine (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis).
- Currently, in the system there are 287 HIV positive inmates, and 600 being monitored for Hep C. This is a relatively low percentage of the nearly 20,000 inmates in the state.
- The Dept. of Corrections has begun treating inmates with Hep C, they began with those that were in stages 3 and 4 of the disease and are now working on Stage 2. By the end of June, 44 inmates will have been treated for Hep C. They cannot treat all of the inmates with Hep C at once/ immediately because of the costs. They have been tackling the issue in a systematic way by prioritizing the inmates who are most severely affected by Hep C.
- In order to prevent/ track transmission they monitor viral load and liver enzymes (specifically for HEP C). They also provide education on what results in transmission and how to prevent transmission. In particular they mentioned tattooing and sharing needles as the two main concerns for transmission of HEP C. They explained that unlike California, South Carolina does not have as big a problem with prison tattoos (apparently in California it is a common form of prison initiation to receive a prison tattoo).
- The Dept. of Corrections also states that they do not have evidence of a pattern of transmission within correctional facilities of infectious diseases like Hep C and HIV.

Catherine is happy to help answer any follow questions you may have, her email is [CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov) and her phone number is 803-734-5292.

*Best Regards,*  
**Kevin L. Bryant**  
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