

Steve A. Wise
309 Lee Drive
Havelock, NC 28532-9369

January 12, 2017

Nikki R. Haley
Governor of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201
CC:

Headquarters
Post Office Box 21787
4444 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

Dennis Bush
Warden (Broad River Correctional Institution)
4460 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

Subject: ALLEGED FRAUD/EMBEZZLEMENT OF INMATE FUNDS; Case of Mr. Casper Wendell
Martin #178554

Dear Governor Haley, Warden Bush and Headquarters,

After long and careful consideration, I feel compelled to submit this letter. Please consider this a formal complaint and notification concerning the mishandling of funds previously sent to the Cooper Trust Fund. The funds are currently sent to JPay for inmate Casper Wendell Martin #178554.

Specifically, these are the issues:

(1) I am the inmate's brother, who often times send monies to Mr. Martin. However, when I visit Mr. Martin and inquire if he has received the funds, I'm told that he only get a portion of such funds. Example: During April 2016, I sent \$50.00 to Mr. Martin. When I asked Mr. Martin if he received the

\$50.00 dollars, the answer was no. He states that he received approximately \$4.50 (estimate). When I asked him how is that possible, Mr. Martin is told that he had gone to the infirmary sometime in the past, and therefore he is charged a co-pay.

I called the Warden's Office on December 14, 2016 to inquire about an inmate owing a co-pay. I did not speak with the Warden, instead, I spoke to an assistant to the Warden (Ms. Morell). Ms. Morell affirmed that policy dictates inmates getting treatment in the infirmary are charged a co-pay. My question is this: An inmate, who is a ward of the state, and who has no way of having an income, is being charged a co-pay for going to medical. In fact, each inmate is budgeted for and allotted X amount of dollars annually. Hence, in effect, this entire policy, if it is policy, is fraudulent in my estimation. In actuality this is not the first time that I had been informed by inmate Martin of this incident. It also happened when I sent funds to the Cooper Trust Fund. I have deliberately waited this long before complaining because of fear of reprisals towards my brother (Mr. Martin). Again, my question is: How many inmates is this happening to?

(2) I visited with Mr. Martin on 11 December 2016. We had a very good visit. However, during the visit, Mr. Martin indicated to me that an HIV positive inmate has been assigned as his cell mate. Now my question is this: Are HIV/AIDS positive inmates housed with the general population? I would think that this practice poses many health/comfort issues.

My expectations from this letter of complaint are these:

- (1) I expect that all future monies sent to inmate Casper Martin, are in fact and totally provided to Mr. Martin.
- (2) I expect that an HIV and/or AIDS inmate be removed from Mr. Martin's cell.
- (3) If any of these allegations are proved to be unfounded, please accept my thorough and humble apology. I can only rely on the information obtained from my brother (inmate Martin).

I left my telephone number in the Warden's Office with Ms. Morell on December 14, 2016. To date, I have not received any feedback, hence the necessity of writing this letter.

You may contact me via telephone at (252) 447-5497 seven days a week.

Sincerely,


Steve A. Wise

Master Gunnery Sergeant

USMC Retired