

MARC A. VEASEY
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4333

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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AND LAND FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

September 2, 2022

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
2132 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
Chair, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Subcommittee Chair Lee,

I write to urge the House Committee on Judiciary, with the guidance of the Subcommittee on the Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, to hold a hearing in North Texas examining the Federal Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) handling of prisons with a high number of sexual misconduct and coverups by correctional staff.

North Texas would be the ideal location as this month, the *Star-Telegram* published a months-long investigation into Fort Worth's FMC Carswell, the only federal medical facility for women in the United States. Recent U.S. Bureau of Prisons data shows that between 2014–2018 this facility had the highest number of allegations of sexual assault and abuse of women by staff at any federal prison in the country. Unfortunately, these numbers may likely even be worse than records show due to women's fear of retaliation for speaking out against this egregious misconduct.

I am deeply disturbed by these reports and strongly believe the stories of the victims merit further investigation on a national scale. Prisoners should never face sexual assault as part of their sentence and the Department of Justice agrees. Just a few weeks ago the Department of Justice released its "[FYs 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#)" which outlines a series of strategies to "maintain a safe and humane prison system." I strongly believe now would be an appropriate time to hear directly from the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Prisons on these efforts and the role each plays to thoroughly investigate allegations of improper conduct or adverse conditions at institutions.

The mission of the Department of Justice is to uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights. These responsibilities should be no different in our federal prisons and in our pretrial detention systems. The BOP has a constitutional requirement to protect the health and safety of all individuals in its charge. I urge the Committee to expeditiously hold a field hearing to hear directly from the BOP on how it is actively addressing inappropriate behavior by staff in our federal prisons.

Sincerely,

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress