

Dear XXXXXX,

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, those in state or federal prison are three times as likely to report having a disability than a nonincarcerated population.

Those who are deaf and disabled are discriminated against every step of the way in our legal system. Deaf prisoners frequently go without ASL interpreters through court proceedings and during incarceration. Those with physical disabilities often go without adequate healthcare, necessary medical devices, or accessibility.

Our legal system operates by only thinking of the able-bodied, the literate, and those who can hear and see. It isolates, discriminates against, and punishes those who aren't. As my legislator, I ask you to push for video phones in jails & prisons; more funding for translation services, during court proceedings and within jails and prisons; and to support adequate health care and equal accessibility for the incarcerated.

Sincerely,