

March 2025 JOB Online Submitted Comments

Name : Niuta Teitelbaum

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s):

Comment : Some of the food packaging reads not fit for human consumption. Rat feces regularly found in the kitchen appliances. Guards who give ppl trays with their allergies on it. The food in the jail is inedible and toxic. So people survive off commissary. That is if they can afford it. all the workers are slaves making \$0, yet the commissary costs money. & it's overcharged. The \$125 is a basic life saving measure to make sure ppl can eat. It also funds the contractor and we kno how the county & jails love to do that. Don't understand why it would be taken away unless you don't actually care about the welfare of the people incarcerated. Oh right And on top of it all , u can only put commissary on for 1 person from out here or they freeze the \$

Name : Emil Durant

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s):

Comment : I would like to speak in favor of the program that puts money on the books for incarcerated persons each month. Since 2020 The Incarcerated Individuals Fund, puts \$125 a month into the commissary of each person in the jail, so each person is able to afford basic necessities while incarcerated, such as hygiene supplies, food, books, and phone calls. Commissary is essential for acquiring things like underwear, stamped envelopes, shampoo, and tampons. Those aren't free. And a lot of families struggle to be able to put money into commissary, and this makes a major difference in the lives of those incarcerated individuals, as they can make their own decisions on what they need most during this vulnerable period in their lives.

Name : Commissary Fund

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s): Commissary Fund

Comment : Acj been working hard to end commissary support. It used to be if u knew someone's name/doc u could put \$ on thru kiosk/website/app. Now u gotta call to b on visit list, can only be on 1 persons list, can only change lists every 90 days. The police arrest us as couples, siblings, families; raid whole buildings, constantly raid the same

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communities & neighborhoods. we know more than 1 person in the jail. So we get together to do commissary support bc they r starving our loved ones. They come for that and now they come for IWF?! Food is power and starvation is coercion and control. Free everyone now... and the IWF should be decided by those inside or fam anyway... but def not by the judges accountants and warden ?!?

Name : Eliana Beigel

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s):

Comment : The JOB should vote in favor of Councilwoman Hallam's motion to continue to disburse \$125/mo to each incarcerated individual's commissary account. The jail's food service issues are well-documented, and just about any incarcerated person will tell you that they rely on food purchased from the commissary just to stay fed. However, not every incarcerated person has friends or family on the outside who can afford to put money on the books and ensure that they aren't going hungry. The IWF payments are critical to helping the most marginalized individuals in the jail meet their basic needs, and I urge the Board to reauthorize this program.

Name : Marcia Bandes

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s): As a human rights advocate I'm a member of a number of orgs, but today I am speaking only for myself

Comment : In reference to the question as to what should become of the \$125/month stipend: I believe that \$125/month should continue until the June/July phone CAP goes into effect. The board should then have enough information to decide what to do. I do believe that it provides a bit of an equalizer so that indigent people have something to spend at the commissary. It may reduce the frustration, stress, and possible friction, as some inmates see others with commissary goods. If the county is forced to drop the cost of telephone calls maybe \$125 doesn't have to be the on-going amount. Also, who qualifies for the stipend? Does one have to be incarcerated for 31+ days to qualify? Or just be present when the monthly stipend is doled out?

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Name : Addy Lord

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s): Project for Responsive Democracy

Comment : I'm unable to make tonight's meeting due to childcare. I'm writing to express my strong support of today's proposal to extend IIWF payments through June of this year to ensure they are on time. For many incarcerated individuals—whose access to funds are restricted by virtue of being incarcerated—a better quality of life while in the ACJ requires having a few extra dollars, either their own, or from friends and family who are outside. I'd be appalled to learn that money spent by incarcerated folks would go to any other county services when the best use of those funds would be to ensure a better quality of life while incarcerated, and that better quality of life results in better cared-for neighbors, and ultimately our collective safety.

Name : Tracey Vallecorsa

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s): Tax Payer

Comment : I would like to know what Jail Oversight Board member voted yes for the \$125.00 inmate payment? Thank you.

Name : Scotlyn Mummert

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s):

Comment : Ensuring the rights of incarcerated trans people is crucial for upholding basic human dignity and safety. Trans individuals face unique challenges, including a heightened risk of violence, discrimination, and inadequate healthcare within prison systems. Protecting their rights ensures they have access to appropriate medical treatment, protection from abuse, and the ability to live with dignity, regardless of their gender identity. Respecting trans rights is essential to promoting fairness, reducing harm, and advancing justice for all people, especially those who are vulnerable in the prison system.

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Name : Aaron Sorensen

Address:

Organization(s): US citizen

Comment : The dignity, safety and welfare of prisoners is essential and this includes Transgender people.

Name : Clara Osburg

Address:

Organization(s):

Comment : Hello, I am commenting proactively to emphasize to the board the importance of protecting the rights of transgender prisoners. Regardless of any other beliefs a board member might hold about a person who identified as trans, it MUST be accepted that identifying as transgender does not disqualify a person from deserving dignity

Name : Rayden McGriff

Address:

Organization(s):

Comment : As an American citizen and resident of Pittsburgh, I am alarmed by the increasing number of rights being violated for transgender people in this country. Transgender prisoners face increased risks of violence, medical neglect, and discrimination. Ensuring the safety and dignity of all prisoners is a fundamental duty of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board. Please protect the dignity, safety, and welfare of transgender prisoners.

Name : Alex Lucena

Address:

Organization(s):

Comment : Eroding the rights of incarcerated people, of trans people, is an erosion of the rights of all Americans, those deemed *inalienable* by

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the Constitution. You would be doing a shameful thing in chipping away at them, targeting the most vulnerable among us.

Name : Sheydon Daniels

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s):

Comment : Transgender prisoners deserve adequate protection and amenities befitting their gender identity as much as everyone else. If they are on hormone therapy or other medications, they must have access to these as prescribed; jailers are not doctors and cannot override medical decisions. They must be housed in a way that does not expose them to harassment by people of other genders trying to abuse them. There is zero excuse a quarter of the way into the twenty first century to be continuing to pretend we have no recourse to improve the conditions for these inmates and accommodate them as well as anyone else in custody. There needs to be accountability for those who defy this common sense and logic, as strong and as soon as is humanly possible.

Name : Daniel Deluca

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s):

Comment : Please keep trans rights for prisoners in place. They deserve it and need it in the pressing times. TRANS RIGHTS FOR PRISONERS

Name : JP Leskovich

Address: [REDACTED]

Organization(s):

Comment : I urge the JOB to take proactive steps to ensure that trans and queer prisoners are treated with dignity and respect. Not only is it the moral and right thing to do, but the law requires the government to provide for the welfare of its prisoners. That means ensuring access to critical medical care, like HRT or other gender affirming treatments, for trans prisoners. The dignity, safety, and welfare of all prisoners is essential

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and that includes LGBTQ people. We're seeing attacks from the federal government on trans and queer people, and Allegheny County has a responsibility to its residents to follow through with its commitment to equality and non-discrimination. We will be watching the actions of the JOB and Jail closely. Thank you

Name : Michael Tikili

Address:

Organization(s):

Comment : The dignity, safety and wellbeing of all incarcerated is essential including to transgender individuals.

Name : Andrew Imredy

Address:

Organization(s):

Comment : I think it's important to protect the rights of ACJ inmates, including access to visitation, lawyers, etc, as well as respecting rights of gender identity and sexuality. In general, I think trying to respect and humanize inmates would better serve the goals of rehabilitation and reintegration into society, and a punitive focus may be tempting, but ultimately counterproductive to the justice system's mission. Also, I wonder if some kind of outdoor access is feasible for inmates at ACJ - I think it would be rehabilitative too. Thank you!