

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance

Fighting for equal rights since 1971
P.O. Box 75265, Washington, DC 20013

Monday, December 15, 2014

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

We urge you to vote against the Office of Contracting and Procurement's recommendation to award the new five-year D.C. Jail healthcare contract to Corizon, a for-profit company with a bad track record.

This is especially scary for people with HIV, transgender people, and anyone with mental health or medical issues. Quality mental healthcare during incarceration is important to successful reintegration into society.

Corizon is a for-profit company that operates in correctional facilities. For-profit correctional healthcare is problematic to start with, because profit margins incentivize cheaper, inferior care. Corizon has been sued nearly 700 times in the past five years because of deaths and permanent injuries to prisoners in their care. Problems have been documented in lawsuits and court or police investigations in Alabama, Arizona, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, and Virginia. Arizona spent over \$3 million defending a suit based on Corizon's failures before settling in plaintiffs' favor. Last week, plaintiffs in Virginia won partial summary judgment against the state Department of Corrections because of Corizon's failure to provide adequate care. No company with such a record should provide healthcare at D.C. Jail and the Correctional Treatment Facility.

Please support a motion of disapproval against OCP's recommendation. There is another provider available: Unity Healthcare, the current provider, a locally based non-profit with a number of health clinics around the District. The Council should insist on a provider with a record of providing responsible physical and mental healthcare to those who are incarcerated.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Rosendall
President
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