

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance

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

Sunday, April 12, 2015

The Honorable Brianne Nadeau
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 102
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Nadeau:

We urge you to vote against awarding the D.C. Jail healthcare contract to Corizon, a for-profit company with a bad track record. We understand that Councilmember Orange is placing "Contract No. CW28651 Approval Resolution of 2015" with Corizon Health, Inc., on the agenda for the April 14 legislative meeting.

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. Late last year, 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 vote "No" to the Corizon contract. 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
Phone: (202) 328-6278