



U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

May 2, 2024

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Senator
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Enclosed please find our response to the question for the record from the Senate Judiciary's hearing on April 16, 2024, "*Legacy of Harm: Eliminating the Abuse of Solitary Confinement.*"

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss GAO's work on the use of restrictive housing in BOP and ICE detention facilities.

GAO looks forward to continuing to work with you. If you or members of your staff have any questions about our response, please contact me at (202) 512-7952 or GoodwinG@gao.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretta L. Goodwin".

Gretta L. Goodwin, Director
Homeland Security and Justice

Enclosure

**Committee on the Judiciary:
Full Committee Hearing
“Legacy of Harm: Eliminating the
Abuse of Solitary Confinement”
April 16, 2024
Questions for the Record**

For Gretta L. Goodwin, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office

In your testimony, you noted that your office found that the Bureau of Prisons did not have a process to routinely analyze data from BOP’s administrative complaint process. Do you agree that it is important that this data be analyzed to identify broad trends and potential issues, and what other steps should we take to ensure this analysis becomes a regular feature of BOP’s operations?

Response

Yes, we did find this, and yes, we do agree that it is important for BOP to analyze administrative remedy (i.e., complaint) data to identify broad trends and potential issues. Specifically, we recommended two steps BOP should take to do this. First, we recommended that the Director of BOP should develop and implement a process to routinely analyze administrative remedy program data. Second, and related, we recommended that the Director of BOP should develop and implement a process to address any identified patterns of noncompliance related to restrictive housing policies and other areas of program weaknesses. Analyzing this data, which BOP already collects, could inform BOP about potential patterns of noncompliance with restrictive housing policies and areas for improvement.