



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 16, 2024

The Honorable Ronald L. Davis
Director
U.S. Marshals Service
1215 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

The Honorable Colette S. Peters
Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
U.S. Department of Justice
320 First Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20534

Director Davis and Director Peters,

We are deeply concerned by reports suggesting that the U.S. Marshal Service did not provide medically necessary health care services to two prisoners in its custody: Ms. Jean Marshall, 74, and Heather Idoni, 59. On May 15, 2024, Ms. Marshall was sentenced to 15 additional months in prison, and Ms. Idoni is scheduled to be sentenced next week.

We ask Director Davis to provide a clear and comprehensive account of the care provided to Ms. Idoni and Ms. Marshall during their time in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. As you know, the U.S. Marshal Services is required to provide appropriate medical care for all prisoners. *U.S. Marshals Service Policy Directive - Prisoner Health Care Management* states that “All prisoners will receive medically necessary health care services.”¹ This is defined as “[n]ecessary to diagnose or treat a medical condition, which, if left untreated, would likely lead to a significant loss of function, deterioration of health, uncontrolled suffering, or death.”²

We ask Director Peters to advise us on what actions the Bureau of Prisons has taken to ensure Ms. Marshall is receiving appropriate care. We also ask for information on actions the Bureau of Prisons plans to take to provide appropriate care for Ms. Idoni if she is placed in Bureau of Prison custody. In accordance with Title 28, Part 549 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Federal Bureau of Prisons Program Statement 6031.04, Patient Care, states that the Bureau of Prisons will provide medically necessary health care to inmates.³ This includes medical conditions which, without care, could “lead to serious deterioration leading to premature death” and could risk “significant pain or discomfort which impairs the inmate’s participation in activities of daily living.”⁴

A summary of the medical situations reported in the cases of Ms. Idoni and Ms. Marshall is provided below.

¹ U.S. Marshals Service Policy Directive - Prisoner Health Care Management. Page 2.

<https://www.usmarshals.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/usms-policy-directive-prisoner-health-care-management.pdf>

² Ibid. Page 9.

³ Bureau of Prisons. “Program Statement 6031.04, Patient Care.” June 3, 2014. https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/6031_004.pdf

⁴ Ibid.

Ms. Heather Idoni

Since at least August 2023, we understand that Ms. Idoni, has been in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. We understand she is being detained at The Central Detention Facility, known as DC Jail, located at 1901 D Street, SE, in Washington DC. Ms. Idoni has stated that she is not receiving appropriate care for a serious heart condition or for her diabetes.

On May 13, 2024, *LifeSite News* reported that Ms. Idoni had suffered a stroke two weeks previously. Following the stroke, Ms. Idoni said that she “had had 3 stents placed above her heart two weeks ago and was told to take daily doses of heart medicine. However, prison officials have not given her a single dose.”⁵ *LifeSite News* reported that Ms. Idoni has repeatedly raised this issue with jail personnel. She says a jail nurse told her, after six days, that jail records indicate she received her daily dose, so Ms. Idoni is concerned that someone at the jail is falsifying her medical records.⁶ Ms. Idoni told a reporter that “she was frightened that she might die.”⁷

Ms. Idoni is also reported to suffer from diabetes. She has said that DC Jail did not offer her diabetes medication and she has been without any prescription for her diabetes. *LifeSite News* noted that Ms. Idoni, who has been held at six other jails since her arrest in 2022, had been able to get her diabetes medication at each of the previous jails. Ms. Idoni told the reporter, “So, my blood sugar numbers are a hundred points higher than they normally should be... My numbers have been perfect at all the other jails.”⁸

Ms. Jean Marshall

Since at least September 15, 2023, we understand that Ms. Marshall has been in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. Until her sentencing on May 15, 2024, we understand she was being detained at William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

Ms. Marshall writes that she suffers from pain in her hip and an inability to walk. She reports that she was evaluated for osteoarthritis in both hips by Dr. Talmo of New England Baptist Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Ms. Marshall explains that she was scheduled for right hip surgery in October 2023 but was not allowed to keep her surgery date. She writes that, currently, “I am afraid to take an anti-inflammatory drug for pain due to the reflux, and today my right knee is stiff, preventing me from bending it, and so I just drag my right leg as I walk.” She also states that “my right leg was growing numb.”

⁵ LifeSite News. “BREAKING: Jailed pro-lifer denied essential heart medication following stroke.” May 13, 2024. https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-jailed-pro-lifer-denied-essential-heart-medication-following-stroke/?utm_source=featured-news&utm_campaign=usa

⁶ LifeSite News. “Pro-lifer Heather Idoni accuses DC jail of gross medical neglect after recent stroke.” May 13, 2024. https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-lifer-heather-ironi-accuses-dc-jail-of-gross-medical-neglect-after-recent-stroke/?utm_source=most_recent&utm_campaign=usa

⁷ LifeSite News. “BREAKING: Jailed pro-lifer denied essential heart medication following stroke.” May 13, 2024. https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-jailed-pro-lifer-denied-essential-heart-medication-following-stroke/?utm_source=featured-news&utm_campaign=usa

⁸ LifeSite News. “Pro-lifer Heather Idoni accuses DC jail of gross medical neglect after recent stroke.” May 13, 2024. https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-lifer-heather-ironi-accuses-dc-jail-of-gross-medical-neglect-after-recent-stroke/?utm_source=most_recent&utm_campaign=usa

Thank you for your attention to this urgent inquiry. We are seeking the opportunity to speak with you directly about the situations of both individuals by no later than May 17, 2024. Our staff will reach out directly to schedule that conversation.

Sincerely,



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



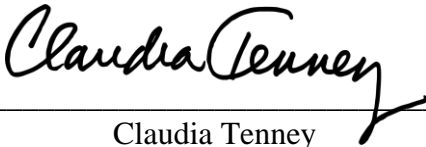
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