

... for the children



**70 East Lake Street, Suite 1120
Chicago, IL 60601-5950**

December 15, 2011

Director Tony Godinez
Illinois Department of Corrections
1301 Concordia Court
Springfield, IL 62794

Dear Director Godinez:

I am writing to thank you for making our November meeting such a productive and positive one as you outlined your position regarding the use of restraints on pregnant inmates. It was truly heartening to know the depth of your understanding of the impact of this policy on women and infants.

I appreciate your willingness to expand the protection against using restraints to all pregnant women, not only those who are in labor. Your commitment to the framework outlined in this year's House Bill 1958 is extremely helpful. Your statement that the reporting provision will not pose a difficulty gives us the path we need to understand how often, and for what reasons, the exception is invoked. This will be very useful as we continue to work to balance the safety of women and the safety of correctional and medical staff, and the community.

We hope to work with your staff in the next few weeks to address the refinements you suggested. We look forward to working with you in the coming months to pass a bill that will keep Illinois in the forefront of best practices for pregnant inmates.

All best wishes to you and your family during the holidays.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail T. Smith".

Gail T. Smith
Executive Director