YOUR NAME

YOUR STREET ADDRESS

YOUR CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

 DATE

Colette S. Peters, Director FBOP

Central Office HQ

320 First Street, NW

Washington, DC 20534

Dear Director Peters,

I am an impacted family member of an adult currently in federal custody for a conviction of a sexual nature. I am writing on behalf of my loved one and the tens of thousands of impacted family members who are inequitably excluded from using the TRULINCS messaging system. We urge the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to provide equal access to all adults in federal custody to TRULINCS, regardless of their crime of conviction.

TRULINCS, the BOP’s own secure messaging system, allows adults in custody to communicate with their loved ones, benefitting both the individual and their families, as well as allowing timelier and less costly access to their legal counsel, friends, and prospective employers. Importantly, according to the BOP, the TRULINCS messaging system supports the BOP mission of maintaining and strengthening community ties during incarceration to reduce recidivism. As the BOP states, “*Studies have shown that when inmates maintain relationships with friends and families, it greatly reduces the risk they will recidivate.”*

TRULINCS is not email. It does NOT allow access to the internet. In fact, it is INTRANET, meaning it is a local restricted communication network. This closed BOP system is tightly monitored and all adults in custody already have access to the TRULINCS system to communicate with staff. According to the BOP Policy on Correspondence (<https://www.bop.gov/inmates/communications.jsp>) as well as Program Statement P5265.13, ***there is no access to the internet.*** *The BOP Program Statement (P5265.13) states the “objectives of the TRULINCS program are: to provide inmates with an alternative means of written communication with the public; to provide the Bureau with a more efficient, cost-effective, and secure method of managing and monitoring inmate communication services; and to reduce the opportunities for illegal drugs or contraband to be introduced into Bureau facilities through inmate mail.”*

Given that this is a closed, secure system, there is no justification to deny anyone access to TRULINCS because of the nature of their conviction. There are many BOP institutions that still make it a policy to issue a blanket denial of access without any rationale other than the category of crime. This is in violation of the BOP’s own policy, which asserts in the Program Statement that, *“inmates must not be excluded from program participation based on general categorizations of previous conduct.”* I urge you to grant all incarcerated persons, regardless of their conviction, equal access to TRULINCS to aid their family relationships and successful reintegration.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter affecting over 12% of incarcerated individuals and their families. I welcome further conversation and can be reached at YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.

Respectfully,

YOUR NAME