



August 13, 2025

Tim Lang, Secretary  
Washington Department of Corrections

Jo Wofford, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Women's Division  
Washington Department of Corrections

Charlotte Headley, Superintendent  
Washington Corrections Center for Women

*Sent via email*

**Re: Physical Assault due to Washington State Prisons Transgender Inmate Policy**

Dear Secretary Lang, Deputy Assistant Secretary Wofford, and Superintendent Headley:

As you will recall, America First Policy Institute ("AFPI") sent you a letter in March 2025, advocating on behalf of female inmates incarcerated at the Washington Corrections Center for Women ("WCCW") who have been harmed by your Transgender Inmate Policy. At that time, we were aware of fifty-one (51) internal complaints at WCCW made by female inmates aggrieved by your policy. Our letter compiled a list of those complaints and communications with the Washington State Department of Corrections over the past year in order to provide a transparent record of our concerns and your attempts to address them.

It is clear your attempts have failed.

It was reported to us that Christopher Williams, a 6'4" male inmate who identifies as transgender and is a convicted child molester, physically assaulted a female inmate on August 7<sup>th</sup>. We were told that Williams attacked a female inmate from behind, punching her in the back of the head and side of the face, knocking her to the ground, and kicking her repeatedly. We were told that a female officer was within ten feet of the attack, but did nothing to stop the assault—later saying that she too feared for her own safety. In the end, Williams was pulled away from the victim by several other female inmates who intervened.

This latest attack comes as Williams was reportedly transferred back to WCCW after having been removed briefly in June 2025 in the wake of a lawsuit filed against your Department wherein Williams is accused of sexually assaulting his female roommate. Alarming, it is our understanding that he remains at WCCW in segregation, and there is no assurance that he will be removed. Since the attack, we have received multiple reports from females incarcerated at WCCW expressing psychological trauma as a result of witnessing the attack, as well as reports of extreme fear in moving about the facility, knowing that a male may be around any corner.

Needless to say, your Transgender Inmate Policy is, predictably, a catastrophe. It recklessly and needlessly exposes female inmates to significant danger and, while you have been alerted to those dangers on many occasions, this recent assault highlights your abject failure to protect the safety of female inmates.

While your March 12, 2025 response cited studies indicating that male inmates who identify as transgender face risks when housed in male facilities, your policy disregards the significant, immediate, and well-documented harms and ongoing risks to female inmates when biological males are introduced into women's prisons. Women's correctional facilities were established to address the unique vulnerabilities female inmates face through sex-specific safety protocols, privacy protections, and rehabilitative programming tailored to women's needs. By introducing biological males into facilities otherwise occupied exclusively by females, the Department of Corrections undoes those well-established safeguards and grants biological males an inherent and disproportionate advantage—physical, social, and psychological—within a captive population unable to avoid them. On its face and in practice, your Transgender Inmate Policy prioritizes the accommodations of biological males (on the basis of sex) at the direct and obvious expense of female safety. Not only is this policy discriminatory, it continues to subject female inmates to a disturbing level of actual and imminent harm.

Your March 12<sup>th</sup> correspondence also stated that “[d]ecisions to move individuals from one gendered facility to another are never made without the lengthy and intense scrutiny of a multidisciplinary committee.” Please be advised that on Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, AFPI submitted a public records request to the Washington State Department of Corrections seeking records related to the decision to return Christopher Williams to WCCW (Reference Number: P054802-081125). Your prompt delivery of those records is most appreciated.

Your Department now faces a clear choice: either take immediate and concrete measures to protect the females in your custody or continue a policy that has been shown to place them in harm's way. AFPI urges you to prioritize the safety and dignity of female inmates at WCCW by revoking your Transgender Inmate Policy and immediately removing all biological males from the facility. Anything short of this outcome is unacceptable. Failure to act will not only perpetuate a preventable danger but will further establish the Department's liability for the consequences.

Sincerely,

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