

NEWS...



From The Office of State Representative Kelly Cassidy

**For Immediate Release:
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General Assembly Members Request Investigation into Strawberry Hampton's Allegations of Abuse in IDOC Facilities

Representatives Kelly Cassidy, Greg Harris, Sara Feigenholtz, Sam Yingling, Christian Mitchell, Will Guzzardi, Ann Williams and Senator Heather Steans are calling on the Illinois State Police and multiple State's Attorneys to conduct a full and thorough investigation into Strawberry Hampton's allegations of abuse while being held in Illinois Correctional Facilities. While residing in four different male IDOC facilities, Ms. Hampton allegedly endured inhumane conditions, as well as numerous physical, sexual and verbal assaults from both staff and fellow inmates.

The abusive treatment she has received while placed in male facilities across the state has caused massive and potentially fatal psychological trauma. Ms. Hampton has attempted suicide at least 5 times since early February 2018 and has been transferred to Menard, Lawrence and Dixon Correctional Facilities in order to mitigate the abuse she was receiving with no success. Each facility has brought new allegations of verbal, physical, mental, and sexual abuse.

"The potentially criminal actions Ms. Hampton has experienced at the hands of State employees in these IDOC facilities has to end now and must be investigated. Moving Ms. Hampton from one correctional center to the next to end the abuse has proven to be futile and reflects shortcomings not only in our criminal justice system but in our oversight of these facilities. Correctional facilities were created to help reintegrate individuals who commit crimes into society once they are released. It has become apparent, especially in cases such as this one, that our current method is further alienating and damaging the lives of those who need help the most."

Representative Cassidy has forwarded each allegation to the respective States Attorney in the jurisdiction where each of these criminal allegations occurred on behalf of all of the members signing onto the letter. Recently, Ms. Hampton and her attorneys filed court documents that further detail the abusive treatment she has received while in IDOC custody.

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