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WOMEN'S ISSUES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5501

April 12, 2007

Mr. Harley G. Lappin
Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
U.S. Department of Justice
320 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Director Lappin:

I am writing to make a plea for help on behalf of my constituent Dr. Paul Maynard who was found guilty in federal court on St. Thomas on February 16th of prescribing pain medication to patients without "a legitimate medical purpose". He is currently being held in a prison whose degraded condition has put his health and life at risk.

Almost from the day of his conviction on St. Thomas, Dr. Maynard has suffered ill effects. His blood sugar went up to over 300, a critical level that is almost double what it should be. His blood pressure became dangerously elevated when it had been normal beforehand. Prior to his confinement, he was not at risk either for diabetes or hypertension. While confined in St. Thomas, for the short time he was there, he had access to medical treatment and was seen by a doctor. But that treatment caused an adverse reaction and he has not been treated since.

He was transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) Guaynabo, Puerto Rico a few days after his conviction, which is maintained by the federal government and has been described as "a hell-hole". Since being transferred he has requested to be seen by a doctor on an almost daily basis but has had no medical attention.

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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Dr. Maynard is being subjected to conditions such as the denial of access to his counsel and denied unrestricted access to the law library, had his reading glasses taken, and there is the crucial denial of the medical treatment necessary to assure his well-being. Two years ago, a number of inmates at MDC Guaynabo complained about the very same deplorable conditions in Parris v. Chavez, 199 Fed. Appx. 198 (3rd Cir. 2006). It is unfortunate that those conditions have not been remedied.

As a physician myself, I can well appreciate the risk to Dr. Maynard under these conditions. Since being at MDC Guaynabo prison, as a consequence of not being given any medical help, his health has deteriorated to dangerous levels. In addition to being severely congested to the point of sometimes having difficulty with breathing, he is now coughing up blood, suffering frequently from diarrhea and, as a consequence, has had an extremely rapid weight loss.

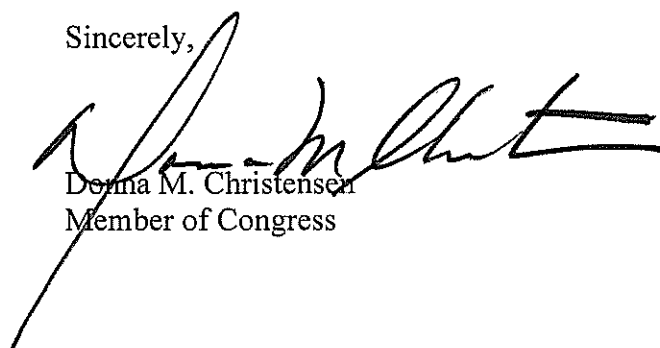
Thanks in advance for any assistance you can provide to Dr. Maynard in this regard. In my opinion, it would make sense for him to be returned to St. Thomas where he could get the care and support of his family that he so critically needs.

If his health and safety cannot be assured in custody, either in San Juan, or in St Thomas, then we really should re-consider confining him at all – at least until after he is sentenced in this matter when, if sentenced to any term of confinement, he can be assigned to a federal facility that has a medical facility that could adequately address his serious health issues.

As you may know, Dr. Maynard is a well-regarded member of his community despite this prosecution and I am confident that there is no danger that he will flee, nor does he present any danger to himself or to his community. In any case, please feel free to contact Brian Modeste of my staff or me for any questions that you might have about this request. I would greatly appreciate any help you can provide.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,



Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress