



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Washington, DC 20534  
October 27, 2017

NOV 2 '17 PM 2:04

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
United States Senate  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

Your letter dated October 3, 2017, was referred to me for response. You requested information concerning the Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) reentry initiatives focused on education.

The Bureau of Prisons remains committed to its mission to protect public safety and promote successful reentry. Education programs are one of the cornerstones of our reentry efforts and we continue to provide many effective reentry programs including GED, ESL, vocational training and apprenticeship programs. Additionally, we understand the difficulties faced by individuals with learning and other disabilities and fully acknowledge our responsibilities to address these needs.

The Roadmap to Reentry provided a framework for making a variety of changes in Bureau reentry programs including education. While we continue our efforts to expand and improve programs, some of the specific aspects of the Roadmap were impossible to pursue without significant resources that are not available to us. For example, the tablet computer-based pilot program was anticipated to cost as much as \$1 billion. Those projected costs were prohibitive, so the project was cancelled. The adoption of a school district model contemplated the addition of many staff, a resource that is also not available to us. On the other hand, the Department of Education's Second Chance Pell Grant Pilot Initiative continues at the selected institutions.

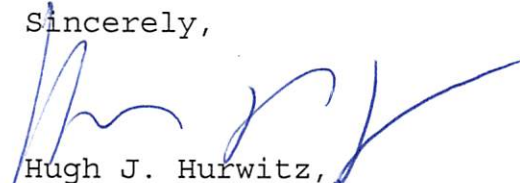
Amy Lopez was hired to oversee educational endeavors specifically related to the Roadmap to Reentry. While it is true that a determination was made to terminate her limited term Senior Executive Service appointment, our work to enhance our educational services continues. We have an interim Education

Administrator who has more than 15 years of correctional experience and a doctorate-level degree. The selection of a permanent replacement to oversee education programs is pending.

For inmates who require extra assistance in education and other programming, including inmates with learning disabilities, the Bureau employs 76 special education teachers who provide educational accommodations as appropriate. Also, we are evaluating a curriculum for inmates who function at lower educational levels, and we recently hired a National Disabilities Manager to coordinate services for inmates with disabilities.

The Bureau is continually assessing its education strategy and looks forward to working with Congress to support the educational needs of the inmate population. We remain committed to improving reentry outcomes for all inmates in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons. I trust this is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,



Hugh J. Hurwitz,  
Acting Assistant Director  
Reentry Services Division