



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

December 10, 2015

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

Idaho's juvenile, adult, and county facilities, in coordination with the Idaho Coalition on Sexual and Domestic Violence, are working together to move the state's adult prison and jail system into full compliance with PREA standards. This is a continuation of a thirteen year effort to eliminate prison rape and ensure safe facilities statewide.

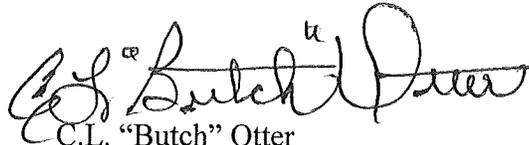
I cannot yet certify that Idaho is in full compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards, but I can provide assurance that Idaho has established zero-tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Prisons, jails, and detention centers in Idaho are making strides to implement the standards. I've requested the Idaho State Police, the state administering authority for Office of Justice Program grants, request the 5% funding be restored in the 2017 cycle and used toward meeting the National Prison Rape Standards.

The Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections has achieved full PREA compliance. The Southwest Juvenile Detention Center was the first facility in the nation to pass a PREA audit. This spring, the final juvenile corrections facility passed an audit as well, allowing me to certify that Idaho's juvenile system has achieved compliance.

The Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) and Idaho Sheriffs' Association (ISA) representatives recently reviewed progress on PREA. The work completed by the Governor's Task Force On Zero-Tolerance of Sexual Assault Against Incarcerated Persons remains a valuable guide to focus efforts on limiting fiscal impact while enhancing safety in statewide facilities.

Idaho's goal is safe prison facilities, and this requires the effective implementation of the zero-tolerance policy. As the interpretation and accepted practices related to the federal PREA standards continues to evolve, so too does Idaho's response. Idaho will continue to focus on a pro-active, transparent, and dynamic process of identifying the best methods to prevent the sexual assault in prisons statewide.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "C.L." written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho