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June 18, 1997

Ms. Torey Tuesday South, J-39424 5263
California Men's Colony State Prison
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-8101

Dear Ms. South:

I have received and personally reviewed all of your correspondence. Please be advised that, while it is not normally the practice for me to become personally involved in inmate requests, several issues that you raise in your letters have caused me concern.

My consultant, Gwynnae Byrd, has twice called your friend, Janice Helmer, to let her know that she was working on your case. From your most recent correspondence, it appears there has been a misunderstanding about the scope of work that my consultant has been performing on your behalf. Specifically, Ms. Byrd has done all of the following on your behalf:

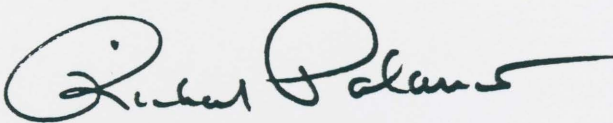
1) Given relevant copies of your file to an attorney with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children in San Francisco, an organization that specializes in women's issues. Although you have had legal representation from the UC Davis Law School, Ms. Byrd felt that LSPC could help you to get some of the counseling you need - both legal and emotional.

2) Spoken with both the Legislative Liaison, Mr. Neal, and the Interim Director of Corrections, Mr. Maddock, several times about your case. She has raised the following issues with them: Why are you housed in a facility for men when you are living as a woman? What has been done to give you the counseling treatment you need? What are the facts surrounding the alleged forgery of your signature on the Army transfer form at San Quentin? What can be done about getting you a work assignment to allow you to accrue work credits while not being subject to sexual harassment?

I hope that these actions are all in accordance with the help you sought from me. I will apprise you of any responses we receive regarding the above-mentioned issues.

More generally, as Chair of the Committee that oversees the Department of Corrections, I have directed my staff to look into any and all institutional abuses that are occurring within our correctional facilities, including the heinous incidents of sexual abuse that you allege. Unfortunately, you are not the first inmate to bring such abuses to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Polanco", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard G. Polanco
22nd Senatorial District