

New York City Board of Correction
1 Centre St., Room 2213
New York, NY 1007
Sent via email

Dear members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the variance request submitted by the Department of Correction regarding the Board Minimum Standards § 1-12(a) and § 1-11(e)(1)(i) regarding packages and mail. As an advocate, I recognize the importance of receiving mail from family, friends, and loved ones for incarcerated people. This allows them to maintain their connections to loved ones and community which allows them to prepare for reentry into society. Moreover, I believe that maintaining correspondence and tangible connection to others is a right that prisoners maintain while incarcerated. Removing physical mail and limiting packages to vendors will create more barriers to connection during incarceration. Everyone should be able to receive postcards from friends, information packets from education advocates, and trinkets from their loved ones without undue interference by the prison.

I urge the Board to deny the Department's variance request.

Sincerely,
Celia Eckert
PhD Candidate in Government