



**PUBLIC HEALTH
NURSING SECTION**

Ms. Dawn Wooten, LPN
c/o Azadeh Shahshahani
Legal and Advocacy Director
Priyanka Bhatt
Staff Attorney

Project South
Institute for the Elimination of Poverty & Genocide
9 Gammon Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30315

September 19, 2020

Ms. Wooten,

On behalf of the members of the Public Health Nursing Section of the American Public Health Association, I want to thank you for reporting the abhorrent medical and healthcare practices occurring at the Irwin County Detention Center to authorities for further investigation. We are sending this letter through your legal team contacts, recognizing your need for privacy and security, and hope that you receive this letter.

We are acutely aware that stepping into public view and making this claim during our tumultuous political times can jeopardize you in many ways, including putting your life at risk. For your bravery, in speaking out against the actions at the detention center, your public health nurse colleagues are grateful. Taking this stand makes us proud to have you as a nurse colleague, and we recognize the sacrifice you have made to do so.

I have reviewed the [legal complaint](#) filed on behalf of your legal team at Project South, and am repulsed by the detailed descriptions of the treatment of people being held at this facility. While the unhealthy and inhumane general conditions of detention facilities holding people migrating to the U.S. have been reported by others, it is our hope that your reporting of potential unnecessary hysterectomies on detainees in these facilities will launch new, independent investigations that will begin to rectify the treatment of people at these facilities.

Given the burden that you have willingly placed on your shoulders to do what is right for the sake of humanity, I am sending this letter, along with [this link to your GoFundMe](#) page to our members within the Public Health Nursing Section and other member units,

so that individual members are able to contribute to your security and legal costs if they so choose and are able to do so.

Again, your nurse colleagues stand with you during this difficult time, and applaud your actions. If you, or members of your legal team can verify that you have received this letter by sending an email to skneipp@email.unc.edu, it would be appreciated. Our admiration, and our best wishes to you now and always.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Skneipp".

Shawn M. Kneipp, PhD, RN, PHNA-C
Chair
On behalf of the
American Public Health Association
Public Health Nursing Section