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Representative Dianne Hart Refiles Bill Creating an Inmate Bill of Rights

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, **Representative Dianne Hart (D-Tampa)** refiled a bill to establish an Inmate Bill of Rights. [HB 357](#) "Treatment of Inmates" establishes a list of fundamental rights that everyone incarcerated in the State of Florida are entitled to. For example, the right to personal hygiene items such soap, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products. The bill would also require the Department of Corrections to provide a written copy of these rights to an individual once in the custody of DOC.

Representative Dianne Hart (D- Tampa) issued the following statement:

"Just because a person is incarcerated, doesn't mean that they are not human. Everyone regardless of their incarceration status should be treated humanely and fairly. This bill creates a bill of rights so that those in DOC's custody are aware of what their rights are.

This bill brings accountability to those who look to violate the humanity of incarcerated individually, and help the Department of Corrections address the needs of inmates by clearly stating what someone incarcerated in our system is entitled."

Public Defender Gordon Weeks (Seventeenth Judicial Circuit) issued the following statement:

"I whole-heartedly support, and urges the citizens of Florida to support, Representative Hart's proposed "Treatment of Inmate's" bill. It asks for nothing more than the bare necessities- ventilation, food, and basic health and hygiene items- to be provided as a matter of right to inmates in our correctional system. As a civil society, we lose nothing, but gain everything, by treating our most helpless and vulnerable."

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