

1 to appear.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr.  
3 Secretary. We appreciate your testimony. Okay.

4 We will now hear the testimony of Sheriff  
5 Oxley.

6 MR. OXLEY: Mr. Chairman, members of the  
7 commission, my distinguished colleagues, I too am  
8 honored and humbled to be here offering some  
9 thoughts on where we are and where we need to head.  
10 Initially, as you did, I would like to give you a  
11 little bit about my background and get a  
12 perspective from where I'm coming from.

13 I served as a former assistant county  
14 prosecutor and currently president elect for the  
15 American Jail Association. I'm a certified jail  
16 manager. Our correctional facility is nationally  
17 accredited by the American Correction Association  
18 and the Maximum Commission on Correctional Health  
19 Care. And yearly we have inspections from both our  
20 state Department of Corrections and also the  
21 federal office because we do house federal  
22 detainees. It's a 1,328 bed facility and roughly

1           12 to 14,000 folks come to our facility throughout  
2           the course of the year.

3           I say this because I think it's important and  
4           I appreciate the acknowledgment that you gave. I  
5           think throughout the United States as you do your  
6           good work, you're going to see that our facilities  
7           are staffed by competent and qualified  
8           professionals. I think you're going to see that  
9           you'll have universal acceptance of both the  
10          mission and the things that we need to do to  
11          address this issue. There's good folks out there,  
12          and I don't believe there's a competent  
13          correctional professional that does not support the  
14          things that you are trying to do.

15          My testimony here today is as the chairman of  
16          the National Sheriffs' Association Accreditation  
17          Detention and Corrections Committee. I am here  
18          representing that organization of 3100 elected  
19          sheriffs and over 20,000 deputies and other  
20          professionals. We are an organization that does an  
21          awful lot of training. And certainly our  
22          organization and the training that we do, we will

1 be happy to assist the commission that you have  
2 been given by both the President and Congress.

3 The Accreditation Detention and Corrections  
4 Committee has discussed the Prison Rape Elimination  
5 Act since its inception. We continue to seek  
6 information and solutions to this issue facing  
7 local corrections community. Our association  
8 endorses a two-step approach to address the issue.  
9 First, we would like to see the development of  
10 solid policies and procedures, a template coupled  
11 with specific training and protocols covering all  
12 aspects of sexual misconduct within our jail  
13 facility.

14 I just want to echo my other colleague. I  
15 think you need to do whatever our best practices  
16 are going to be, you need to do and work with those  
17 organizations. The American Correctional  
18 Association has been accrediting facilities for  
19 years and years and years. They've got good  
20 policies, good procedures. So I think we need to  
21 have those types of partnerships so that the  
22 policies that we're going to develop and the best

1 practices that will come from your hard work will  
2 be things that certainly can be readily implemented  
3 and easily implemented throughout the facilities in  
4 the United States.

5 Secondly, as a profession, I think we also  
6 need greater access to proven inmate classification  
7 models and well-managed incident reporting systems  
8 that provide correctional administrators with  
9 additional tools to better monitor the status of  
10 their facilities.

11 In all this, very, very important, which are  
12 performed, as I said, by the American Correction  
13 Association and the National Commission on  
14 Correctional Health Care provide administrators  
15 with an outside objectively view of their operation  
16 and safety of their jails.

17 Traditionally, our jails throughout the United  
18 States release inmates directly back into the  
19 community, inmates that certainly may have had the  
20 additional trauma, the additional stigmatation of  
21 sexual assault are going to come back into our  
22 communities, perhaps more violent, perhaps more

1           unstable, and perhaps less likely and less able to  
2           integrate within our communities. So this clearly  
3           is an issue that needs to be addressed, but I think  
4           as you saw, a lot of the members reported on the  
5           subject.

6                     And I was pleased Mr. Ryan indicated the  
7           media. The media sometimes portrays our facilities  
8           in the worst possible light. I think the  
9           statistics, and I agree that even one is too many,  
10          but the statistics show that hundreds of thousands  
11          of people that come through our facility, the  
12          numbers are small. And that is not what is  
13          pertained sometimes in the print and the broadcast  
14          media. So I think it's important that we know as  
15          professionals, I think it's important that you as a  
16          commissioner realize the professionals within our  
17          correctional profession know that we are  
18          responsible for getting these people back into the  
19          community, to making sure that they're reintegrated  
20          in the community, and to make sure as we can to  
21          reduce the numbers of people that are serving in  
22          our correctional facilities.

1           I believe sheriffs and all their entities that  
2           are responsible for operating the nation's jails  
3           are doing an excellent job in addressing the issues  
4           of sexual misconduct and violence, the profession  
5           that continues to strive for the total elimination  
6           of inmate rape and all the forms of sexual  
7           misconduct in the facilities. The National  
8           Sheriffs' Association staff is fully prepared to  
9           assist the commission and the Bureau of Justice  
10          with their respective missions. We're eager to  
11          assist the National Institute of Corrections in its  
12          mission after developing and providing training,  
13          model policies and procedures and follow  
14          persistence with the nation's sheriffs and jail  
15          administration to eliminate the detrimental  
16          behavior. I thank you very much for your time.

17                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for  
18                   your testimony.

19           At this time, he will open up the floor for  
20           questions from our fellow commissioners. I was  
21           asked not to just identify anyone, but as long as  
22           we don't have disorder.