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Dear [redacted]

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I felt very hurt—a lot more than I expected. To make matters much worse, my main outlet for emotional support and comfort when I'm feeling depressed, anxious, lonely, or hurt is music. I don't have access to anything that stores music whatsoever, but I do have a radio—and that was taken away on the same day. It compounded everything by making me sit alone in a quiet, empty cell. I felt really, really small and insignificant. I haven't felt that bad in years.

I was denied a formal trial regarding the charges this summer because the prison claims that the charges are "administrative" and not criminal. They argue that because they are covered by a regulation and not by law, they are purely administrative. Yet an administrative board is the only court-martial substitute of proper authority to make a decision for someone in the military that has consequences for service. This is troubling because these boards for prison discipline could be, in some cases, more than most other administrative boards in the military, such as the "disciplinary" boards under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

The problem with these boards, as far as I know, is that they are basically rigged by the prison staff. The prison staff can force charges to a "three member" board, because the board must be approved by the prison staff to go ahead. So, while you provide the prison staff of the facility with information, usually by informing an attorney, they are going to serve "15 days" punishment "over" to the "three member" board. These boards are normally held for months and years in conditions of solitary confinement. To say that board members are people at a "three member" board is that you must have done something to make it to such a board, so they will always dish out some kind of punishment.