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JDI staff and prisoner rape survivors, including the late Bryson Martel (above), testify at the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission’s first public hearing.

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JDI and hundreds of other organizations, as well as dozens of prisoners, submit public comments in response to the Department of Justice’s draft standards, released in February 2011.

**APRIL 2011**
The Department of Justice — finally — issues its national PREA standards to end sexual abuse in prisons, jails, youth detention facilities, police lockups, and community corrections.

**MAY 2012**
The final standards are a testament to the efforts of a JDI-led coalition of advocates and survivors, who pressed the Department of Justice to fix its unacceptably weak draft from 2011. Advocates scored another victory when President Barack Obama, on the day of the PREA standards’ release, issued a memorandum stating that all federal agencies with confinement facilities were bound by PREA. The President’s landmark memo confirms the government’s absolute duty to protect all people in its custody.

**AUGUST 2013**
The national standards become binding on state and local agencies, prompting the first-ever round of independent PREA audits of U.S. detention facilities.

**JUNE 2009**
The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission’s draft national standards, which draw heavily on the expertise of JDI and survivors, are submitted to the Department of Justice.

**JUNE 2009**
The first federal civil law to address sexual abuse behind bars, PREA affirms that such abuse constitutes a crisis, and that government officials have a responsibility to stop it. The groundbreaking law mandates nationwide inmate surveys, federal funding to help make facilities safer, and binding national standards.

**OCTOBER 2005**
In an unprecedented JDI initiative, two California state prisons agree to allow rape crisis centers to provide confidential counseling on site for incarcerated survivors.

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