



**BILL FOSTER**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
11TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

July 21, 2015

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

I write to you on behalf of the residents of Naperville, Illinois, who recently lost a beloved member of their community. With great uncertainty surrounding her death, I write to encourage a full and thorough investigation by the Department of Justice.

As you know, Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old African-American woman, was driving through Texas to assume a new position at the Prairie View A&M University. According to reports, in the course of a routine police stop, Ms. Bland was arrested for assaulting an officer. A video of part of the arrest showing her detained on the ground by police has been posted online. In it, she can be heard stating that she could not feel her arm or hear because her head had been slammed to the ground.

According to reports, Ms. Bland was found dead in her cell at approximately 9 a.m. three days later. Police reported that the cause of death appeared to be self-asphyxiation by hanging with a noose made from a garbage bag. News reports suggest that she requested to make a phone call at approximately 8 a.m. that day, but there is no record of a call being made.

The circumstances of Ms. Bland's death are unclear and warrant an inquiry into the facts leading up to her arrest and what happened while she was in police custody. Her family and the community that loved her deserve the justice that comes with truth. Whether there was or was not foul play leading up to her death, our society failed Ms. Bland.

I encourage you to initiate a full and thorough investigation so that we all may have the closure of truth and take action to help protect all our citizens from tragedy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Foster".

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress