



# How Budget Cuts Make Our Prisons Less Safe



## Augmentation

When there aren't enough correctional officers employed to work each scheduled workday, other noncustodial employees such as cook foremen, secretaries, electricians, teachers, accountants, case managers or counselors are "augmented" as replacements inside the nation's prisons in assigned correctional officers' posts - to fill the gaps in staffing.

## Safety Issues

Augmentation results in fewer staff able to respond to emergencies in the prison to quell violence. Usually, there is one correctional worker supervising hundreds of dangerous felons (e.g., terrorists, gangs, murderers, etc.) at a time in BOP inmate housing units depending on the security level of the prison with no backup.

## Pay Freezes

Federal employees are routinely asked to give more and more in the name of budget austerity. Across the board, federal workers have given over \$180 billion toward deficit reduction in the form of pay freezes, miniscule COLAs, and increased contribution to our benefit plans. Even though we're regularly reminded that unemployment is low and the stock markets are booming, they're still proposing federal law enforcement officers again tighten their belts.

## Private prisons

In a recent memo, the Bureau is expediting sending low security inmate to private prisons. As you all know private prisons get to cherry pick which inmates they accept. That means the healthiest inmates and those who pose the lowest threat level will be sent outside of the BOP for custody, leaving unhealthy and most dangerous inmates to be supervised by our staff.

**Call your lawmaker and demand they reject this dangerous plan for BOP.**

**U.S. Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121**

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO



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