

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt,

As you consider the FY2020 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we request the bill continue the inclusion of report language requiring the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to address its overreliance on the practice of “augmentation” as a cost-saving measure. This practice takes non-custody staff away from their assigned duties and transfers them to mandatory custody posts, which adversely impacts employee morale and puts substitute staff in some of the most critical positions. We thank the Subcommittee for working last year to include similar language in the Committee Report and believe continued focus on this issue is necessary.

While the BOP has broad discretion to decide how best to use its resources and personnel to carry out its responsibilities, the safety of the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to guard, supervise, and protect federal inmates must be a top priority. Augmentation is the wrong way to reduce costs and we remain concerned about the hazardous workplace environment the utilization of this practice creates.

To that end, we urge you to include the following report language in the Subcommittee’s FY2020 bill to require the Federal Bureau of Prisons to address this issue:

“Augmentation – Overcrowding remains a serious threat to officer safety, particularly at high and medium security facilities. To meet staffing needs, the BOP has used a process called augmentation, whereby a non-custody employee is assigned custody responsibilities. The Committee directs the BOP to curtail its overreliance on augmentation and instead hire additional fully-time correctional staff before continuing to augment existing staff. The Committee also directs the BOP to improve staffing beyond mission critical levels in custody and all other departments. BOP is further directed to submit quarterly reports on the inmate-to-correctional officer ration at each facility, using OPM’s definition of a corrections officer, broken out by security level and shift.”

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress


Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Scott R. Tipton
Member of Congress



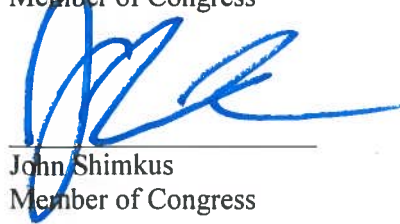
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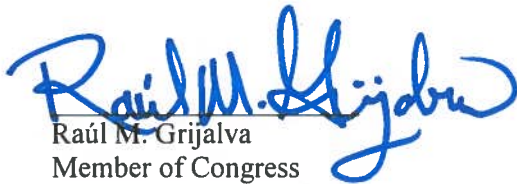
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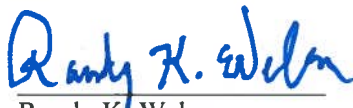
David Trone
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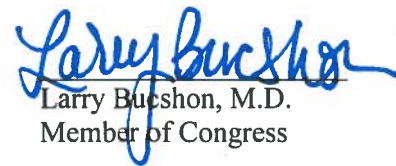
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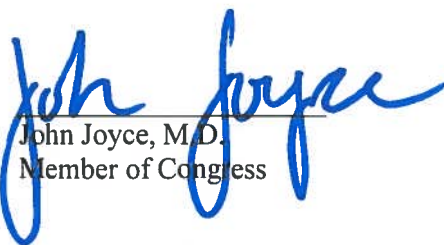
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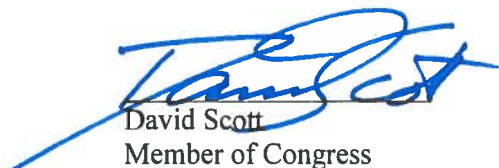
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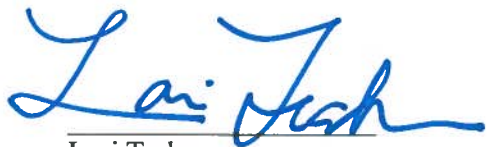
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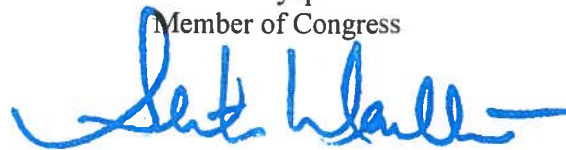
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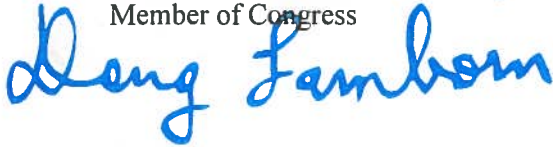
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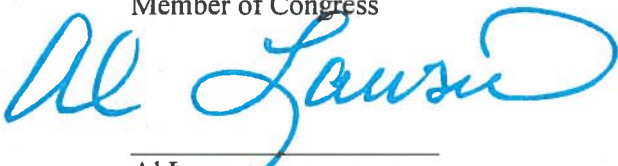

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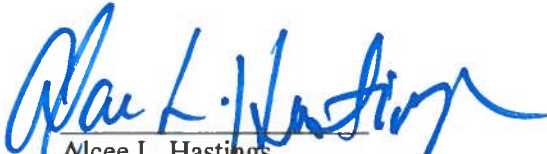
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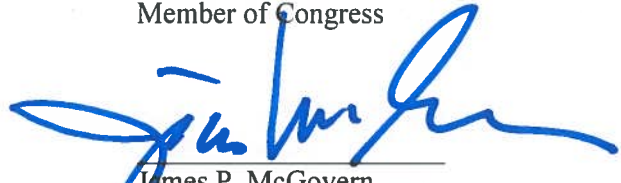

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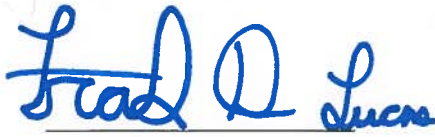

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