



Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Jeremy A. Lannan
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May 5, 2020

Mr. Michael Carvajal
Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Director Carvajal:

On behalf of the 30,000 federal correctional workers represented by American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE) and our Council of Prison Locals who are working on the front lines to protect their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, I am writing to ask that you use your authority as Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to immediately cease inmate transfers between BOP facilities.

Despite calls from the Council of Prison Locals, the union representing the dedicated men and women who work inside our federal prisons every day, governors, and members of Congress to halt the transfers, the Bureau of Prisons continues to transfer inmates between prisons, most notably from institutions that have had outbreaks of COVID-19 to ones that have not had any confirmed cases of the virus in either staff or inmates.

These transfers pose a threat not only to the correctional officers on the front lines of this pandemic, but also to their families and the communities where they work and live. The Council of Prison Locals has repeatedly raised concerns with wardens about proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for correctional officers, the lack of adequate testing and screening, and the introduction of COVID-19 into previously unaffected facilities and geographic areas as a result of these continuing inmate transfers.

The risk of introducing COVID-19 into an unaffected population is especially acute in many rural communities where our BOP institutions are located, places not equipped with negative pressure rooms and where local hospital infrastructure could be quickly overwhelmed, putting members of the community at risk.

In order to help protect the 30,000 dedicated correctional officers, their families and their communities, we urge you to take immediate action, in accordance with your authority as Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and halt inmate transfers. I am available at your convenience to discuss this issue and provide any further information you may need in order to grant this request. Please contact my assistant, Ms. Wanda Manson at (202) 639-6455 and she will accommodate your schedule. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely yours,


Everett B. Kelley
National President

cc: Daniel Doyle, AFGE National Vice President District 4
Shane Fausey, President Council 33

