

April 6, 2020

Petition to The White House Coronavirus Task Force  
About The Emergency Need to Protect  
Nonviolent At-Risk Prisoners

While your important work has focused on so much of the American population, we the undersigned conservatives from organizations representing millions of Americans call on you to rapidly address the safety of non-violent, non-sex crime prisoners whose health conditions and the conditions within our prison system make them “sitting ducks” for a death sentence due to the COVID-19 virus.

The guidelines you have established for the general population, such as social distancing, are not being followed in America’s prisons, and may not or even cannot be followed due to the nature of the prison system.

Prisoners with pre-existing bad health conditions are particularly vulnerable to being infected in over-crowded cells, dorms, and feeding facilities. These prisoners were sentenced for crimes, but the present circumstances literally make them at risk for a death sentence, a punishment that does not fit their crimes.

These prisoners lack advocates on their behalf, and are even treated with contempt by some within the prison and criminal justice system.

A perfect example of a prisoner who fits criteria of who should be removed from prison is former Texas Congressman Steve Stockman, who at age 63, with diabetes and a lung condition, and who was being denied medication in prison even before the coronavirus outbreak, is serving under what many have reason to believe was a political prosecution -- using three failed grand juries before a fourth indicted him - - for criticizing the Obama administration, the lawlessness at the IRS under Lois Lerner, and corruption in the Ukraine. A successful man of intense Christian faith, Steve poses no danger to society, but remaining in prison may be a death sentence for him. Due to the unusual and extreme length of the judge’s sentence, Steve is not eligible for release under the First Step Act.

With so much that President Trump and Congress have done with reforms to the criminal justice system in just the past two years, we know there are paths by which certain members of the prison population who do not pose risks to society may be released early, or temporarily placed into supervised home detention with family members.

In these emergency circumstances, so many prisoners with families, who are supposed to return to normal, productive lives following their incarceration, will die unless emergency measures are taken.

Therefore, we petition the Task Force to address this emergency situation to prevent needless deaths of people who may have done wrong, but who are God's children worthy of compassion.

Respectfully,

(organization listed for identification purposes only)

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