

December 28, 2020
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Dear Governor Newsom:

I am concerned about Draconian punishment. Our society has long overused imprisonment particularly against minorities and the poor. Now our failure to address COVID has added a higher chance of death to jails, prisons and administrative detention centers alike with San Quentin particularly atrocious. At first there was an effort to address this by releasing the most vulnerable and then courts ordered testing to help isolate outbreaks but prisons are back to prepandemic crowding and many of the orders were ignored. We are now lucky to have remarkably effective vaccines. Morality and the constitution dictate that we avoid the unusual cruelty of adding a heightened chance of death by suffocation to sentences.

Please assure me that you will distribute vaccine to the incarcerated soon.

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our humane justice.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson