

February 10, 2019
Eric Babson
babson@math.ucdavis.edu
1094 Cragmont Avenue
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about federal prisons. A society is judged by its treatment of the weakest members with inhumane treatment of prisoners being both immoral and unconstitutional. The heating failure and inhumane response by prison officials in Brooklyn last week was a symptom of a larger problem. The PLRA of 1996 at the height of a national panic over crime has helped these problems fester out of sight. In the past two years the federal prison population has grown by including thousands more immigrants and the reliance on private facilities has more than doubled. Budget priorities as well as the recent (and maybe future) shutdown have also cut into both staff and morale. Several facilities have been subjects of horrific reports from the DOJ Inspector General and various congressional committees all while the Bureau of Prisons and the Justice Department continue to limp along with only acting leaders.

Please assure me that you will insist on humane treatment of prisoners.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our respect for human rights.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson