

July 2, 2020
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Dear Mr Vice President:

I am concerned about coronavirus in prisons. As was clear since this pandemic began our jails and prisons are ideal for the virus to spread with overcrowding, understaffed hospitals, poor sanitation and communal dining. Now there are massive outbreaks in many facilities such as the federal Butner prison and the state San Quentin prison. Federal authority is concentrated and a recent bill empowers General Barr still further to expedite releases but even here the response has been disastrous and chaotic. After decades of excessive incarceration the Brennan center estimated that more than a third of federal prisoners are now held with no public safety benefit even before this crisis added a huge public health cost.

Please assure me that as COVID response coordinator you will pressure General Barr to shift focus from the President's lawyers.

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

Sincerely,
Eric Babson