

Your Name  
Your Address  
Your City, State, Zip Code

Date

Attorney General Merrick Garland  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland,

On January 6, 2022, it was announced that both the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and the Deputy Director of the BOP would be resigning. Lawmakers, advocates, families and, more importantly, the men and women who are incarcerated have been outspoken about the need and time to replace BOP leadership and reform our prison system. The nationwide lockdown of the prisons that was implemented on January 31, 2022, has served to highlight these needs and emphasize the urgent need for new and competent leadership.

As an advocate for people imprisoned, I implore you to ensure that the incoming Director and Deputy Director of the BOP are replaced by individuals who bring fresh eyes to an antiquated, ineffective, and damaging system to human lives. For too long these positions have been filled by career correctional officers who worked their way up to management positions without the appropriate education or training necessary to meet the stated BOP goals.

In your role of leadership and responsibility, you are aware of the dysfunction of the BOP from top to bottom. Please recognize this opportunity and use your influence to ensure that new managerial leadership will be chosen carefully and with the goal of taking the first steps to overhaul the entire culture and ineffective operations of the BOP. New leadership must have the skills and commitment to address the following:

- Rehabilitate, reconcile, and restore individuals to the community and away from retribution and punitive punishment.
- Prioritize mental, physical, spiritual, social, and emotional health care, ensuring humane treatment.
- Retain and encourage family connections through visits, letters, phone calls and placement considerations.
- Update policies and program statements.
- Develop creative and innovative evidence-based programs to provide equal opportunities and fair treatment of all incarcerated individuals, regardless of offense.

Along with thousands of other families and men and women who are incarcerated who have lived under the physically and emotionally damaging decisions of the past Directors and Deputy Directors, I am cautiously optimistic in expressing excitement for new BOP leadership. Change is long overdue and stellar leadership in the BOP is needed to integrate current, evidence-based research concerning all areas of the federal prison, from arrest to community integration. The people occupying the positions of Director and Deputy Director must both promote and be an example of transparency and they must commit to holding all BOP employees accountable. The new leadership must be held to high standards of accountability and demand oversight and accountability throughout the entire federal prison system.

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for you to make positive changes in the direction that the BOP progresses toward creating a standard for others to model throughout the world.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Respectfully,  
Your Name, Your Email Address