



May 1, 2020

The Honorable William Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Director Michael Carvajal
Federal Bureau of Prisons
U.S. Department of Justice
320 First Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20534

Dear Attorney General Barr and Director Carvajal:

On April 21, I wrote on behalf of the 40,000 people who are incarcerated in federal prisons and their family members who are members of FAMM to criticize the Bureau of Prison's (BOP) abrupt change in determining who was eligible for home confinement. I was glad when the BOP announced the next day that its authority had been clarified and that it intended "to expeditiously transfer all inmates to home confinement who were previously referred." This has not happened. In fact, many families have told us that case managers and other prison officials are telling their loved ones, who had been previously referred, that they are not eligible for home confinement.

As I mentioned in my April 21 letter, we heard from numerous family members whose loved ones had been sent to quarantine with the explicit understanding that they would be sent to home confinement afterward. These families were devastated to learn that the BOP had abruptly changed its policy and was now requiring that their loved ones serve at least 50 percent of their sentence, regardless of any other factors. As the COVID-19 infection rate has skyrocketed since that time, their devastation has turned to desperation. They fear for their loved ones' safety and want them home. The BOP already approved these home confinement placements, which demonstrates that the bureau did not think these releases would jeopardize public safety. The BOP was right the first time, and the justification for sending these people home has only gotten stronger.

Please honor your commitment to move to home confinement those couple of hundred people who previously were sent to quarantine with the express promise that they would be sent home at that end of their quarantine. Send clear guidance to the case managers at all BOP institutions to re-approve those individuals who had already begun the process of going home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken A. Ring". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "R".

Kevin A. Ring
President, FAMM