

# Restore Justice Foundation

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://restorejustice.org/updated-recommendations-covid-19-and-prison-communities/>**

## Campaign and Advocacy

*Updated April 27, 2020*

Read our earlier recommendations [here](#).

**Our state must continue to expand and accelerate early prison releases throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Our state must ensure a responsible exit process for those selected for early release.**

**Standards for COVID-19 response in prisons should mirror response in long-term care facilities.**

**Incarcerated peoples family members, friends, and lawyers, as well as the general public, must be given adequate information about COVID19 spread and response in all Illinois facilities.**

**Read our earlier recommendations [here](#).**

To Gov. Pritzker,

My sister is incarcerated at Logan Correctional in Lincoln for a nonviolent and has under 2 years left. She has been a model prisoner and has a place to parole. She also is extremely high risk and I understand is in contact with this virus. She not only has an autoimmune, Behcets, but she also has asthma. I fear for her. These are the type of inmates that should be considered first for release. Her name is Melissa. Please start releasing those most at risk. Thank you.

Attention Gov. Pritzker: I am reaching out to you on behalf of my Son Eric. He is an inmate at Pinckneyville CC .Perry County Illinois.. Eric has been battling Severe Ulcerative Colitis for the past 14 mo. He has been on and off of Prednisone (Steroids) without success in controlling his illness.Recently hes been receiving Humira injections..This has also been ineffectiveBoth medications/treatments and prolong use COMPROMISES THE IMMUNE systemHe is VERY VULNERABLE TO INFECTIONS AND VIRUSES. He is very ill as of the writing of this letter 4/28/2020..Having serious inflammation flare up FROM THE Colitis .. he has lost 40 lbs the past 2 mo..He was admitted into the facilities Medical Unite last weekend due to Low White Blood CELL COUNT and Low HEMOGLOBINhe is scheduled for a colonoscopy tomorrow.So worried and scared..Besides his declining health his life is at RISK THE CORONA VIRUS is spreading through the community and all surrounding communities his facility is locatedWE PRAY YOU GET THE DIRECTOR OF PRISONS AND WARDENS AND ANYONE ELSE IN CHARGE OF PUTTING FORWARD YOUR EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR MEDICAL FURLOUGHS IMMEDIATELY!! He has no violent history and has a Very Strong Supporting Family to Stay In Place through the EpidemicWe can get him the medical attention he needsWe are at your MERCYAnd The Mercy of IDOCPlease Sir I Pray you take my Son into Consideration release for Medical Furlough ..God Bless You Sir ..and God Bless ALL Our Loved Ones.and Families.. Thank you..

My sons name is ALBERT incarcerated at Murphysboro Re entry center (IDOC) He has completed copious education classes.Exhibits good behavior and often times assists other inmates with learning accomplishments also in which contributed to good time toward his out date but 6months retroactive time was not allowed him which prevented his early relief. I feel he should be released immediately because of coronavirus without any other technicalities..PLEASE!!

To Governor Pritzker,

I write you in the hopes that you read this in regards to my Father Richard, Currently part of the Statesville correctional facility. Ive been fortunate that the staff at the institution have allowed him multiple calls in the last few weeks after a month of nothing. No contact until a letter I received indicating his physical state, he has been locked in a cell for day after day no ability to leave and at the very least move about the facility breathe fresh air and not the recirculated virus cloud im sure that is the current . Hes 60 and up until being placed inside was a heavy smoker and has dealt with breathing issues pneumonia and lung infections, hes a prime candidate to get this terrible virus and based on your own health directors guidelines would suffer greatly should he contract it and im very concerned for his safety. If you sir are serious about saving lives then why leave people crammed into jails especially older portions of the population, I ask you to consider his selection for early release before this pandemic claims another life, one that is easily avoided and allow him to show that your gracious ruling is not in vain. He has been a loyal tax paying citizen who has worked himself hard and has paid the price for it, I would ask that you dont let the virus be the ultimate form of punishment and be the caring politician your news briefings make you out to be. Thank and I hope this reaches you sooner rather then later

Regards,  
Luke

Governor Pritzker. I Write You in Hope in regard of My Son Rafael He is in IDOC Centralia, IL. He has Asthma, High blood Pressure, and Headaches quite often. And We are Greatly. Concerned about His Health His Physical-being. And About Covid-19 is Spreading .

And May God and Your Mercy Released Rafael Immediately..His a Home and Employment waiting for Him and His Family & Love Ones Sincerely Appreciate You & Thank You Amen.

[] Justice Foundation <https://www.restorejustice.org/updated-recommendations-covid-19-and-prison-communities/> advocates for fairness, humanity, and compassion throughout the Illinois criminal justice system, []

Good afternoon Governor Pritzker and whomever it may concern,

This post is to request assistance from you or staff with releasing my fiancé Joseph A.k.a Andre. He is currently housed at Lawrence correctional center under the inmate name Andre. His current released date is 7/21/2020 but originally was to be released back on 1/21/2020. He was at Shawnee Correctional Center in 2017 where he was disciplined in solitary confinement for 6 months and was given 6 months additional time making his new release date 07/21/2020. The disciplinary occurrence at Shawnee and was charged and found guilty unfairly. He was accused of having marijuana in his cell and after drug testing him came back inconclusive, they searched his cell and found nothing. Internal Affairs pressed him to implicate me his fiancé as an accomplice to bringing him drugs into a state prison. He again denied he had any drugs and also denied the accusations implicating his fiancé had brought drugs to the prison. After the investigation they sent him to Solitary confinement for 6 months saying he was withholding info for this case and banned me his fiancé (Maud) from visiting him at any IDOC prison. We asked for another investigation because this was inaccurate and they kept giving us the round around. Eventually we gave up and I have not seen my fiancé physically for over 3 years now. He has been in prison since 2014. (I do believe this is illegal and if any real evidence indicated I did such a thing I would be in prison myself). I have never been incarcerated ever. I believe my husband was wrongfully given an extended time to remain in the jail and would appreciate an immediate release due to COVID19 and error on IDOC processing.

Attention Gov. Pritzker: I am reaching out to you on behalf of Anthony who is incarcerated at Hill Correctional Facility. Anthony has been incarcerated for 29 years 14 for a case that was dismissed. I am standing with the advocates for fairness, humanity, and compassion throughout the Illinois criminal

To Governor Pritzker, I'm coming to you today on the behalf of Ronald. My brother been in prison for over 10 years and I know he's rehabilitated and he will become a productive member to society. He has a great support system a place to stay if he gets released and a job waiting for him also. He achieved his G.E.D, business degree, and other certificates while incarcerated. The Coronavirus is very serious and he and his loved ones worried because the conditions in prison are terrible. Guards and inmates' lives are at risk. Please take that into consideration and thank you for your time

Sincerely,  
Cordell

To Governor Pritzker, My name is Graciano and I'm contacting you on behalf of my cousin, Ronald. Ronald has been incarcerated for over 10 years now and has since grown to be a much better person. He's obtained a G.E.D, business degree and many other certificates. He's also been promised a good, stable job upon his release. I'm certain you understand that times are especially difficult now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That being said, I'm becoming very concerned of the state and safety of Ronald's well-being in prison. The conditions there are terrible and are a huge risk to the health of guards and prisoners. I'm sincerely asking you take the time to consider granting Ronald's release during this time. I hope this information is enough to prove to you my cousin's improvement and how much of an asset he will become to this society. Thank you so much for your consideration and time. Sincerely, Graciano

Keshawn was tried as an adult at age 15. His crime was violent. But he was no adult as the courts sentenced him to 23 years for murder. He has served over eight years of his sentence. The COVID-19 threat is real. The young man made poor choices but deserves a second chance at life. He has grown up while being in prison and he received his GED degree. Since the state can no longer afford offering community college classes to inmates there are no other opportunities to continue his education. Please consider Keshawn for early release.

Dear Gov. Pritzker

My husband Rico is in Pinckneyville Correctional Center with less than 180 days left. He has diabetes. We are seeking an early release if possible.

I'm pleading with you please my father has cancer and is dying also has virus. I've lost my father almost my kids I'm not well all I have is my sister and fiancé who is both incarcerated Jeffery has COPD, nocardiosis on both lungs heart condition and diabetic in Vienna prison. My sister Kimberly has COPD and other health problems in Logan prison Governor please I beg you I'm disabled and need them to care for me my memory is going and dad can't please.

CLEMENCY FOR MY SON ZACHARY He plead not guilty, however, was convicted under accountability (he was in backseat of a car) for a Home Invasion (of a known drug dealer that took a plea deal for testifying). Fortunately, nobody was hurt. Zach is appealing this because: Nobody was in the house and Zach was in the backseat of a car. Some witnesses at trial testified to this. His sentence is 23 years at 50% and will have served 5 years this June. I have read about similar or worse circumstances where the individuals received a substantially lower sentence. Zachary is currently confined at Gramham Correctional Center and feels like he received the death sentence because of the pandemic. Our country also has a problem with mass incarceration and is in great need of Criminal Justice Reform. My son is a non-violent, low-level offender without any ties to any criminal organizations or gangs. My son has no criminal history. Anyone who has spent time with Zach will tell you he follows the rules, is respectful and hasn't caused any problems. I believe this experience of spending time in prison has saved my son's life. He was an addict, another statistic in our opioid epidemic. He has persevered through some very tough times. Now he is 5 years sober, found his faith again in God, helps others, is writing a book, and is looking forward to taking more college classes or attending a trade school. The first time you meet him you will see a soft spoken and kind hearted young man that gets along great with others. Please pray that Zach is granted clemency.

Anthony Allen has been incarcerated for almost 29 yrs. He's been convicted of a crime that was dismissed 14 yrs ago. The crime was for first degree murder and he wasn't the driver. The state dismissed

To Gov. Pritzker. I am Christopher reaching out to you about my nephew Ronald. On behalf of Ronald whom is and has been

incarcerated for over 10 years and has done a dramatic 360 during this time. Being my nephew Governor Pritzker ive noticed and has personally seen these dramatic changes hes gone thru and completed. Achieving his G.E.D diploma was the first major step which it didnt stop there. He went on to receive other degrees and certificates. Due to tragedies which happened in his life especially loosing his mother it wasnt going to stop him from moving forward and taking the necessary steps to walk a fine line. I know his mom would truly be proud.. Due to the Coronavirus which has had a tremendous effect on all of our lives and family members. We worry deeply about Ronald because of his daily living conditions in these prisons. Especially his health. No one is exempt. I do understand but due to what ive seen my nephew has been thru and what he has achieved today im asking you Gov.Pritzker to take into consideration and take a look at sending him home to his loved ones whom is waiting with open arms. He has a job prepared and waiting for him. A loving home with all types of family and friends support. Family and friends are willing to support with whatever he needs to help him to be that productive member of society. There is no limit what im willing to do. Church and its member also. Please take time to consider this letter Gov.Pritzker. I know your a busy man. Thanks for the good job your doing. Sincerely yours, Christopher

Dear Gov.Pritzker, Im writing to you today on the behalf of my grandson Ronald whom has been incarcerated for over 10 years. I dont get a chance to visit him due to my health. Now that Covid19 which has caught us all by surprise its really,difficult,scary and frightening because of unknown everyday deaths especially family due to this virus. I would Love to hug,kiss and see face to face my Grandson rather than not to be viewed in a box nor vice-versa seeing him. I dont want to view another family member especially seeing him that way. Due to the conditionss that surrounds the penal systems this virus has no limits to the lives it touches and takes. My Grandson was a teen when the crime was committed and was tremendously misled and mistreated. We lost his Mom a few years later my daughter and he still managed to put one foot in front of the other and achieved his GED diploma and began to receive other certificates. I am truly proud him especially when it comes to mind over matter situations. Hes learned to rise above and excel. A whole complete life change. I Love and enjoy his phone conversations. Very educational and Love. I Love the walk hes walking. He has planned and continues to plan his future and goals has been set but due to this coronavirus the odds are really against us all. He has a stable job awaiting him. Beautiful home with full family,church and close friends support. Alot has been achieved by my grandson Ronald already. A strong minded man. Gov.Pritzker please help me to help him achieve the rest. Sincerely Grandmother Carrie Neely

Hey gov Pritzker Im writing on behalf of Dareonte he has been incarcerated for a year now with 5months to go if not longer he has 3 little sister & 1 little brother we just lost his first cousin to Covar 19 last month so its really been hard on the family hes the extra help around the house his mom work 1 of his little sister is sick need help gettin around & mom now has to put more work into home she just Recovered from a mental breakdown she lost her mother not too long ago so things have been kind of tough and also she losing hours & shes the only 1 with income so bills & medical bills are backing up all cause this big piece of the puzzle is not around to help out with his siblings Dareonte Always played a big part in his siblings life he was his sister care taker Dareonte is & has been in GED Program he trying to show improvements With the Cove or 19 It is a big threat to his sisters health conditions so its hard to say who can be around her doing this pandemic Dareonte commits to attending and finishing his GED program if he is granted the ability to release early he will also be attending college courses once hes done his family will be greatly appreciated to have him back home safe and sound Thank you we are going to pray for a good outcome in this situation

To Gov. Pritzker,

I am writing to you about my father, who is in Danville Correctional Center has under 4 years left on his sentence. He has been a model prisoner and has a place to parole. These are the type of inmates that should be considered first for release. His name is Micheal I really truly miss my father. He has a wonderful family to support him and whatever he needs to do. He also has grandchildren that would love to meet him and to be apart of his life. My dad is 60 years old and has missed a lot of his kids lives. So please consider releasing those most at risk. Thank you.

to Gov. Pritzker my brother was wrongfully accused of statutoy rape he was in the wrong place at the wrong time it didnt even go to a trial the judge said take a plea deal is your only real choice never ever bing in trouble with the cops b4.. he was not read his rights witch iv read he should b set free .all it was word to mouth i didnt no here say could put u in jail theres no proof of anything they didnt do a dna test or a lie detector test or sex kit its unfair when u got the wrong guy so you let the real guy slip tho and is free doing god nos what to other children or who nos i wish someone would look into this hes marked as criminal sex assault/consent and its unfair to mark some one when they r innocent his name is Steve hes stuck at muddy river correctional this mistake the cops did ruined our family and our name and he will never have a normal life if you cant right this injustice please help our family and get him home

Attention Governor Pritzker : my cousin is being held at Champaign county jail for a crime that appears to be discriminatory against him . He is in jail for aggravated battery after getting into a fight with U of I college Caucasian student , after my cousin who is African American defended himself he was arrested and charged . He was on parole already so the PRB chose to violate him . We have gotten him a lawyer but this lawyer has been no help in which I am filing a complaint against also for discrimination also . He is very rude and has cursed as me and my family when we called to get updates . We recently bonded my cousin out after hearing they were letting inmates for lesser charges in spite of Covid and also he has asthma . The PRB lied and said they reviewed his case for release and never sent him paperwork or his parole officer . They are now saying they refused to let him out , did not send him any paper work saying yes or no and basically have him sitting in Champaign county until IDOC opens to finish his sentence which he has less then a 1 year . Please look in matter and contact me as this matter it is being untreated unfair . Several other men , ( Caucasian) have been giving house arrest and have went home to there families . My cousin is a good kid like all who made a decision after being provoked by a drunken student and is now in Champaign county jail sitting since according to the jail cant be released until IDOC comes to pick him up . He has a home to go to right now , please release him . Or look into this matter . Please

Attention Governor Pritzker,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of Ronald. Ronald has been in prison for over 10 years, which is a harsh reality given the fact that he was only 15 when sentenced. He paid his dues. We have good faith that Ronald will be another success story for life after prison. He has earned his G.E.D and other educational tools while incarcerated. He has an excellent support system and access to other resources for returning citizens upon being released. Ronald plans to continued to give back to his community. Another harsh reality is the corona virus pandemic, in which is making the prison conditions horrific. This is increasing our concerns for Ronald. We ask that you please consider his early release. This will give him a promising future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Attention Governor Pritzker: Im writing this letter in regards of my boyfriend Terrace He is currently locked up in the correctional center and he has less then 10 months left I feel like he deserves another chance to come home and turn his life around I pray that you give him that chance thank you and have a blessed day

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First Name

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Submit your email address to be notified of crucial legislative action items, fundraisers, and news about our progress.

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