



MAINE STATE PRISON BRANCH OF THE N.A.A.C.P.

807 Cushing Road Warren, Me 04864



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April 29, 2020

Dear Warden Magnusson & Commissioner Liberty,

We are desiring to take this opportunity to express our organization's sincerest appreciation for the extraordinary work being undertaken by your administration and putting into action the precautionary measures needed to keep COVID-19 from coming into the facility. The efforts we have heard about and witnessed truly deserve to be recognized and validated.

As our constituency is largely composed of those incarcerated and staff, we wish to bring special attention to the labors of the Department of Corrections in striving to ensure the health and safety of both staff and incarcerated citizens. Yourself, Commissioner Liberty and facility staff continue to work tirelessly toward creating the safest environment possible, while doing your best to effect normalcy within the facility. We know this is not an easy balance to affect, and your efforts deserve to be congratulated.

In view of the excellent work already being done, and understanding that additional actions can be pursued to further minimize risks, our organization requests you to consider implementing the following orders concerning the Maine State Prison community.

1. **Mandatory Testing** – All individuals (staff, contractors, etc.) who come in/out of the Maine State Prison are tested (per CDC recommendations) for COVID – 19. In this way, testing helps to assure COVID – 19 will not enter into areas where social distancing is virtually impossible to achieve on a large scale.
2. **Review of Compliance with use of PPE & CDC Recommendations** – A review would help to ensure education amongst both staff and incarcerated citizens. Furthermore, it would help to confirm that such recommendations are being fully complied with. For example; compliance to PPE's in congregate settings to the furthering education as communicated by the CDC or is adhered to staff wearing masks as it is an increasing concern amongst many.
3. **Compassionate Release** – Understanding that compassionate release should be done with consideration to public safety and of victims, we are requesting that persons who have one year or less on their sentence and who pose minimal threat to public safety be considered for immediate release if they meet any of the following conditions: A. Pregnant, B. Over the age of fifty, and/or C. Have significant health issue(s). Such an order we believe will significantly reduce the institutional population, lessening the likelihood of risk for COVID infection, while protecting the health of those most vulnerable.

Again, thank you for your incredibly quick response to this pandemic and the continuous work being done by your administration in keeping everyone in the facility safe.

Respectfully,

MSP NAACP President, Foster Bates