

ACTION PAGE
COVID-19 Endangers Detained Migrants in MA Jail

WRITING OR CALLING ELECTED LEADERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS:

1. BELOW IS A SAMPLE LETTER THAT YOU CAN CUT AND PASTE AND SEND IN ONE EMAIL TO ALL OF THE OFFICIALS BELOW. (Exceptions: Warren, Markey, McGovern, Neal and MA Dept. of Public Health require letter to be sent via their websites, below)

OR

2. YOU CAN MAKE CALLS. (Choose YOUR state and federal members of congress). THERE ARE TALKING POINTS and PHOE NUMBERS below.

(Whatever you have time for: making many, any, or all of these calls will help!)

SAMPLE LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Greetings.

I write as a MA citizen advocate, to ask that you do everything in your power to prevent a COVID 19 public health disaster at Bristol County Jail in Dartmouth, MA where over 100 migrants are detained by ICE, *by calling for their immediate humanitarian parole.*

We know that those who live and work in in crowded facilities, without social distancing, PPE and available hand washing, are the most vulnerable to the quick and often deadly spread of the virus, which in turn contributes to the exponential spread of the disease in the greater community.

Immediate humanitarian parole will help contain the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable detainees, staff and the surrounding community in this region of our state.

Can we count on you to take a public stance on this matter and also to use the power of your office to exert pressure on those who have the power to release detainees, like the Bristol County Jail Sheriff, Thomas Hodgson and the Regional ICE Director Todd Lyons?

Thank you for your attention to this urgent public health matter.

All the best,

TALKING POINTS IF MAKING CALLS

Urge them to do everything in their power to call for the immediate humanitarian release of all migrants held in dangerous COVID-19 conditions in Bristol County Jail and elsewhere in our state.

Many of these officials, though sympathetic, may think that individually there is nothing they can do. Remind them that together, with the suggested steps below, their collective pressure could make a difference.

Ask if they would:

- **Use their influence to exert pressure** on those who have the power to release the detained migrants, specifically Sheriff Hodgson of Bristol County Jail and Todd Lyons, Regional Director of ICE.
 - **Use their power to seek a strong public statement from Governor Baker to say, “We won’t stand by and watch people die. Not in our state.”**
 - **Investigate the conditions** at the Bristol County ICE detention facility.
 - **Make public statements about the danger of the COVID-19 virus** for detainees, staff, their families, and the surrounding community.
 - **Ensure that detainees in Bristol County are released on a rolling basis** (50 cases to be considered per week), as ordered by U.S. District Court Judge William Young.
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OFFICIALS TO CONTACT:

GOVERNOR CHARLIE BAKER: (617) 725-4005,
constituent.services@state.ma.us

ICE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, TODD LYONS: BURLINGTON, MA
(781) 359-7500, Boston.Outreach@ice.dhs.gov

MA ATTORNEY GENERAL MAURA HEALEY: (617) 963-2020

SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN: <https://www.warren.senate.gov/contact>;
(202) 224-4543

SENATOR ED MARKEY: <https://www.markey.senate.gov/contact>;
(202) 224-2742

REPRESENTATIVE JIM MCGOVERN : <https://mcgovern.house.gov/contact/>;
(202) 225-6101

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD NEAL: <https://neal.house.gov/contact>;
(202) 225-5601

MA SENATOR JO COMERFORD: (617) 722-1532, jo.comerford@masenate.gov

MA REP MINDY DOMB: (617) 722-2400, mindy.domb@mahouse.gov

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MA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH:
<https://www.mass.gov/forms/contact-dph-by-web-form>