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April 24, 2020

Mr. Michael Carvajal  
Director, Bureau of Prisons  
320 1st St NW  
Washington, DC 20534

Mr. Donald Washington  
Director, U.S. Marshals Service  
1215 S Clark St  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Carvajal and Mr. Washington:

It has come to my attention that the U.S. Marshals Service, working in conjunction with the Bureau of Prisons, has designated FCC Hazelton as a COVID-19 quarantine facility. Inmates will be transferred from jails in Washington, DC, where there has been a confirmed outbreak, to FCC Hazelton, where there has not been a single confirmed case. This is an irresponsible decision that will put the health of the inmates and staff at Hazelton at risk. I vehemently oppose this plan and urge you to reconsider.

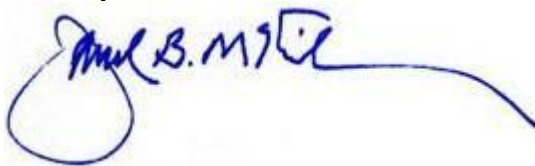
As we've seen throughout the country, jails and prisons serve as hotspots for COVID-19 because social distancing in these facilities is nearly impossible. This, coupled with the fact that BOP only has enough testing for inmates presenting symptoms, will result in a similar outbreak at FCC Hazelton. Why can't these inmates be quarantined in Washington, DC, where they currently reside? The transfers are troubling and unnecessary. While we are encouraged that these inmates will be in a mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival, this is simply not enough.

Just yesterday, my colleagues from Illinois expressed similar concerns after inmates were transferred from a Chicago jail, where there has been a confirmed outbreak to a BOP facility in Thomson, Illinois, where there are no confirmed cases. The inmates were not tested or screened before leaving the facility in Chicago. The Bureau of Prisons and US Marshals are setting a dangerous precedent across the country.

This virus has the potential to spread from inmates to correctional officers and support staff, culminating in a threat to the children and families of not only Hazelton staff but all throughout the region. West Virginia has been successful in dealing with the virus by controlling our environment. We cannot now become a repository for potentially sick inmates and put our vulnerable population at risk.

The transfer of these inmates puts the health of inmates, staff and the surrounding community at risk. I urge you to consider the consequences of this decision and stop the transfers before it is too late.

Sincerely,



David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress