

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 3, 2021

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

Dear Director Carvajal:

We write to request detailed data regarding staffing levels and augmentation policies at Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities nationwide to ensure Congress has a complete understanding of the scope and nature of widely-reported staffing failures within the federal prison system.

Among our concerns is that BOP is responsible for implementing the First Step Act (FSA), bipartisan legislation that aims to reduce recidivism through programming and productive activities for incarcerated persons, while continuing to manage the effects of a global pandemic. We have been troubled by reports that employees who are critical to the success of FSA reforms—including psychologists, teachers, unit managers, and medical staff—are regularly reassigned from their traditional assignments to perform correctional duties, such as monitoring showers or escorting inmates during recreational time. Overtime is not permitted for these staff members to complete assessments and provide education and other services missed while reassigned to other duties.

Successful implementation of the FSA is at risk if BOP continues to rely heavily on augmentation and require staff such as teachers and counselors to work as correctional officers, instead of fulfilling their programming duties.


To fully understand the scope and nature of staffing shortages, we request the following information:

- Strength and Staffing reports for each of BOP's 122 federal facilities for the first pay period of 2016;
- Strength and Staffing reports for each of BOP's 122 federal facilities for the most recent pay period of 2021;
- Current staffing guidelines for each of BOP's 122 federal facilities, broken down by security level and mission type; and


- Ratio of inmates to correctional officers at each of BOP's 122 federal facilities, as well as the ratio of inmates to correctional officers across BOP and across each security level and mission type.

We ask that you provide the information requested above no later than November 12, 2021. We look forward to working with you to better address staffing shortages at federal prisons nationwide and thank you for your immediate attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Lisa Monaco, Deputy Attorney General