

Petition to Congress

It is a common belief that our Federal prison system has standards in place which protect prisoners against abuse. The current system (the Administrative Grievance Procedure) by which prisoners file complaints against prison officials does not safeguard them from abuse and rights violations. This system needs to be examined and reassessed. It utterly fails to protect inmates from abuse.

It is a common belief that health care to prisoners is also monitored and that standards are upheld. But health care to prisoners is poor, inadequate, and hurtful to both inmates and the general public.

A thorough and independent investigation into the Federal Bureau of Prisons would find: the use of excessive force and physical punishment, lack of adequate medical and mental health care, and lack of both education and rehabilitation programs. It is a self-policed system rife with corruption, and one that is hostile toward the well being of inmates.

People can make terrible mistakes in their lives — some with tragic, irredeemable costs. They are incarcerated in prison as punishment, not to be punished. *New York Times* columnist, Bob Herbert, recently wrote: “Very few Americans have raised their voices in opposition to our shameful prison policies. And I’m convinced that’s primarily because the inmates are viewed as less than human.”

Please help change this mind set. Demand an end to the abuse and neglect of those incarcerated in our Federal prisons. Demand that they be treated humanely.

Please sign this petition, urging Congress to exercise its authority to investigate the abuse and neglect (physical, psychological, and medical) of Federal prisoners.

We, the undersigned, urge our representatives in Congress to launch an intense and thorough investigation into the Federal Bureau of Prisons. There are over 100,000 incarcerated within this system which operates void of public scrutiny. Contrary to what may be stated as the national norm, we care about those now incarcerated who will one day be released and will need to readjust and contribute to our communities.

NAME	SIGNATURE	STREET / CITY / STATE / ZIP	DATE

Please return this petition to: **Rosalind Burbank Joseph • PO Box 3841 • Albany, NY • 12203**

This petition can be signed on line: StopPrisonAbuse.org