Public Comment 12/29/2020

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To: PressRoom Nevada Health Response <PressRoom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov>

🖿 1 attachments (13 KB)

COVID Task Force-Monica-12.29.20.docx;

Good Morning, my name is XXXXXX and I am here today with Return Strong! Families United for Justice for the Incarcerated. I would like to share a portion of a letter from an incarcerated person that again depicts additional problems in getting people OUT of prison who are qualified to. This person is ALREADY approved for parole and attempting to release to a sober living home that he previously lived at. He has a release plan, non violent convictions that are related to his substance abuse issues and has been approved since April of 2020. His sentence expires in 2021. Just to be clear, this is a problem in Nevada and it is even more concerning now than ever because he shouldn't have had to live through the pandemic IN PRISON.

"...A persistent problem I have is getting my parole housing approved. This is address is on an approved placement list in the streets. I lived there before; it is a sober living house. But NDOC won't send the address to PnP on the streets. My previous paperwork shows that address as my release home, my Nevada state ID, that the prison has in my inmate file shows that address but NDOC refuses to even send the paperwork to PnP. My parole is granted, and I have a release date, but if I do not have an address, I will not get approved."

Last week, at the public comments there were multiple organizations and community partners willing to help people who are released address housing issues. In addition, we need to look at potential solutions that are outside of the box, we have had to adapt to a new normal on the streets, it's time to MOVE on a new normal for those who are incarcerated. This man is less than a year to expiration, has already been approved by the parole board, has non-violent felonies and is still waiting for release. This is why we continue to call for accountability and oversight into NDOC's actions. Thank You for your time.