

Hello, my name is Monica and I have a loved one incarcerated at Warm Springs Correctional Center. I am a member of Return Strong! Families United for Justice of the Incarcerated. I have never done anything like this before but the fear for my loved one's life, has forced me to do something, so here I am.

Prison is hard under normal circumstances but after 15 years you adjust to certain aspects of it. Chow halls, and no privacy and bars and tier times. If you aren't careful, prison will begin to wear you down but there are things that make it easier. The connection with loved ones. Being able to hear the voice of someone outside the gate that you know loves you, and cares about you. Visits, and being able to sit across a table and hold the hand of a loved one and look the eyes of someone who cares about you, even if your reality day in and day out is that no one cares if you live or die. You are a number or a street name to everyone except your loved ones.

My loved one goes to the Parole Board in 4 years that might seem a long time to the free world, but that is nothing to us. Unless he doesn't live to make his board.. This is HORRIFIC. Where is the accountability? Who holds NDOC and the state accountable for our loved ones lives, for their physical and mental health?

Director Daniels says that he doesn't have the authority to release people. Which I understand. But the Governor does! My LO wouldn't qualify because he still has too much time but what about others? The ones that Daniels said don't exist. Return Strong manually went through parole eligibility lists and identified over 500 people who are within a year from expiration and nonviolent felons. Everything reported from reputable sources, like the Vera Institute say that thinning the prison population is one of the best practices for both the people that qualify for release and people who don't because it creates space BUT you can't wait until they are sick or dying or dead to do it. Nevada has all the indicators for a pending deadly outbreak, but it seems like no one will move until it happens. With everything happening, prisons are not even on your agenda today. Please do something, before it is too late.