

Governor Douglas Anthony Ducey,

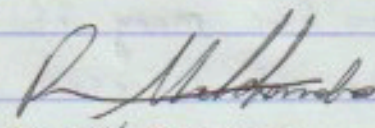
We acknowledge the fact that all your time and efforts right now must be focused on implementing measures to fight and stop the Coronavirus pandemic, in order to protect your fellow Arizona citizens, with basic hygiene campaigns like hand washing, social distancing, and keeping at least 6 feet from one another, among other strategies. However, there is a considerable part of the state's population that is at an incredible high risk of getting infected with the virus, which would surpass by far the current health system and would cause many more unnecessary deaths. I'm referring to the penitentiary population of low-threat inmates, or those whose sentences are soon to be completed. 60 to 120 individuals live in common areas, in very confined spaces, whose beds are only 2 to 3 feet apart from each other. Some of them (as well as the staff members that work there) are allowed to go out daily in order to work and must return at the end of their work day, making them a vehicle of contagion.

Perhaps, in normal conditions, this system has worked over the years. However, during this pandemic, places like these represent nothing less than a time bomb. You have the power to veto, or grant clemency, among other powers that you have by law, to grant early release or to free many of those people that are soon to be released and that do not represent a danger to society, as well as those who will be deported back to Mexico. Even though, they are serving time for committing a crime, they do not have to be exposed to losing their lives if a massive contagion is to occur, especially under those living conditions. This would go beyond the limits, making things much more difficult to control in this moment. If you were to grant an early release to



those inmates that have served 60-70% of their sentences, who have shown a good conduct, and who do not represent a threat to the community, you would prevent a further tragedy from happening in your state. These might be measures never seen before, but this pandemic, too, is unprecedented, and no one knows how or when it will be resolved.

I believe these people, along with their families, will be incredibly grateful and might be able to help the community in a variety of ways. They might be able to donate blood or assist or volunteer during this crisis. In other words, they can be put to better use outside than the risk of having them in such a close environment. They, too, are part of our population. Please, do not wait for this to become a real tragedy. You have the conviction and leadership to project and prevent this from happening. It would be better to go down in history as a leader that helped save lives than one that left people behind, without an option, to become more vulnerable to be infected with this lethal virus. Please, take this into consideration to do the right and humane thing. Thank you Governor for taking the time to review our plea and the situation we are in.

Signed 

DOC#331450

3-29-2020