

TELL GOVERNOR POLIS TO DO HIS PART

For months during this pandemic, the Governor has urged everyday Coloradans to 'Do Your Part.' Yet when it came time to do his part, to protect the lives of elderly and medically compromised people in prisons, correctional staff and the community at large — the Governor abandoned them.

Take action and tell Governor Polis to safely release the medically vulnerable and elderly from Colorado's prisons and stop the spread of COVID-19. He must use his executive authority to bring our neighbors safely home or more people will die, both behind bars and in the community.

Asks:

1. Call Governor Polis

- a. See script below or make your own call to (303) 866-2471

2. Email Governor Polis

- a. See script below or write your own email to Governorpolis@state.co.us

3. Contact Governor Polis on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

- a. See sample messages below or write your own message to him on the social media platforms below:
 - i. Twitter: @GovofCO or @jaredpolis
 - ii. Instagram: Governor Jared Polis (@govofco) or Jared Polis (@jaredpolis)
 - iii. Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/jaredpolis/> or <https://m.facebook.com/PolisForColorado/>

Here is some messaging we are using:

- A prison sentence should not be a death sentence.
- Redemption is real. Clemency is compassion. We need Governor Polis to extend a hand.
- Urge Governor Polis to safely release the elderly and at-risk from unsafe, overcrowded prisons in Colorado, and save lives now.
- We are either a nation of "we the people" or "we the prisons" – we can't be both. Mass incarceration has destroyed families, deepened racial injustice, and wasted resources that could have been spent investing in local communities, all without making our neighborhoods safer.
- Colorado recently ended the death penalty, yet older and medically vulnerable Coloradans are facing a potential death sentence in prisons that have failed to protect them from COVID-19.

Helpful resources:

- Ronald Johnson video: <https://aclu-co.org/videos/video-ronald-johnson/>
- Anthony Martinez video: <https://aclu-co.org/videos/video-anthony-martinez/>
- ACLU decarceration homepage: <https://aclu-co.org/campaigns/covid-19-decarceration/>
- Read the stories of incarcerated people: <https://aclu-co.org/no-one-deserves-to-die-from-covid-19/>

CALL GOVERNOR POLIS

Governor Polis has the power to release at-risk incarcerated people and save lives behind bars. **Can you call today?** The more of us who call, the more public pressure we build to push Governor Polis to do the right thing.

Call Script

Governor's Office, Front Desk: (303) 866-2471

WHEN YOU REACH THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR POLIS PLEASE SAY:

Hi, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I live in [YOUR CITY OR TOWN]

As a Coloradan and constituent, I'm deeply concerned that there are hundreds of medically vulnerable and elderly people incarcerated in Colorado's overcrowded, unsafe prisons.

I'm calling to urge Governor Polis to exercise his clemency and commutation powers to save lives behind bars. A prison sentence should not be a death sentence.

Thank you.

EMAIL GOVERNOR POLIS

Send Governor Polis an email here:

https://action.aclu.org/send-message/co-covid-19-decarceration?initms_aff=co&initms_chan=eml&utm_medium=eml&initms=200804_affcampaign_messageaction_gradead_sail&utm_source=sail&utm_campaign=affcampaign&utm_content=200804_massincarceration_messageaction_gradead&ms_aff=co&ms_chan=eml&ms=200804_affcampaign_messageaction_gradead_sail

Or email a more personal message:

Email: governorpolis@state.co.us

Dear Governor Polis,

I urge you to issue an executive order granting the Colorado Department of Corrections the power to release at-risk incarcerated people, and to exercise your own clemency and commutation powers to save lives behind bars. There are hundreds of medically vulnerable, sick or elderly prisoners who pose no threat to public safety, but who face a serious risk of dying of COVID-19 in Colorado's overcrowded prisons. I support safely releasing at-risk incarcerated people because *(write one reason you support decarceration).**

Thank you,

(Your name)

(Your zip code)

CONTACT GOVERNOR POLIS ON FACEBOOK:

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/jaredpolis/>
<https://m.facebook.com/PolisForColorado/>

Post on his Facebook page:

Governor Polis, I urge you to issue an executive order granting the Colorado Department of Corrections the power to release at-risk incarcerated people, and to exercise your own clemency and commutation powers to save lives behind bars. There are hundreds of medically vulnerable, sick or elderly prisoners who pose no threat to public safety, but who face a serious risk of dying of COVID-19 in Colorado's overcrowded prisons. I support safely releasing at-risk incarcerated people because *(state one reason you support decarceration)*.*

CONTACT GOVERNOR POLIS ON TWITTER

Twitter: @GovofCO
@jaredpolis
@LtGovofCO

Hashtags: #decarcerationday #FreeThemAll #covidjustice #carenotcages #endmassincarceration #COVIDcolorado #doyourpart #bringourneighborshome #redemptionisreal #clemencyiscompassion

Sample tweets:

- To protect the public health and safety of thousands of incarcerated people and the staff that work in our correctional facilities, as well as the health of the broader Colorado public, we must reduce the number of medically vulnerable people in prisons and jails. @GovofCO
- @GovofCO issue an executive order granting CDOC the power to release at-risk incarcerated people & exercise your own clemency & commutation powers to save lives. Take action to bring our neighbors safely home or more people will die both behind bars & in the community.
- There are hundreds of medically vulnerable, sick or elderly prisoners who pose no threat to public safety, but who face a serious risk of dying of COVID-19 in COs crowded prisons. @GovofCO a prison sentence should not be a death sentence!
- The spread of COVID-19 in CO's prisons will prolong the time needed to bring the virus under control, overwhelm existing medical capacity & will be potentially catastrophic for incarcerated people. @GovofCO release vulnerable incarcerated people & stop the spread of COVID-19!
- Incarcerated people are much more vulnerable to severe complications & death from COVID-19 than people living free in the community. CO ended the death penalty yet medically vulnerable Coloradans are facing a potential death sentence in prison. @GovofCO bring our neighbors home!
- Given the inevitably close & sustained contact between jail staff & prisoners, an outbreak in any jail or prison will affect prisoners, correctional staff, their families & the community at large. @GovofCO take action to protect the health & safety of people who live & work in prisons!

- While Coloradans may assume that incarcerated people are isolated from the general public, the reality is that prisoners have persistent, daily, close contact with the public. @GovofCO you can't stop the spread of COVID-19 in CO w/o stopping the spread of COVID-19 in prison.
- Jails are a revolving door where people are constantly moving in and out of crowded jails and their communities. During a pandemic, halting that churn is essential to stopping the spread of the virus. @GovofCO release at-risk incarcerated people & stop the spread of COVID-19!
- There is consensus by public health officials that COVID-transmission in jails & prisons poses an enormous and potentially catastrophic risk. Colorado's correctional facilities are the ideal breeding ground for the spread of COVID-19. @GovofCO release at-risk incarcerated people!
- There are hundreds of active COVID-19 cases in correctional facilities in CO. Public health experts urge that only substantial depopulation that allows for social distancing has any real chance of mitigating the massive spread of the virus. @GovofCO follow public health advice!
- The estimated cost of confining an older prisoner is about \$60,000 per year. These elderly and medically vulnerable incarcerated people should be released, and the money reinvested in public safety programs that actually work. @GovofCO release our at-risk neighbors!
- A decisive, swift & coordinated statewide response by all stakeholders in the criminal legal system is needed to save lives and protect incarcerated people, staff, and the public at large from the threats posed by COVID-19. @GovofCO the buck stops with you. #FreeThemAll
- In a recent poll, sixty-six percent of likely voters, including 59% of those who are "very conservative," said that elected officials should be considering measures to reduce overcrowding in prisons and jails as a response to COVID-19. @GovofCO do the right thing! #FreeThemAll
- The data shows: We don't have to choose between public safety and public health. Reducing jail populations saves lives, and these reductions must continue. @GovofCO take action to bring our neighbors safely home!

CONTACT GOVERNOR POLIS ON INSTAGRAM

Instagram: Governor Jared Polis (@govofco)

Jared Polis (@jaredpolis)

Consider sharing the story of an incarcerated person and tagging Governor Polis.



Demika Rogers came to prison as a 25-year-old woman who survived a life of abuse and neglect. She has since dramatically transformed herself into a leader who works to help others. She is a chef, actor, facilitator for the Alternatives to Violence Program, founder of the Women of Influence program and active participant in the New Beginnings Church. She dreams of returning to her three children and one day starting a nonprofit to help children whose parents are incarcerated. Redemption is real. We need @GovofCO to extend a hand.



Anthony Martinez is an 84-year-old grandfather who has spent 30 years incarcerated for a series of robberies and spends each day confined in a wheelchair in his cell in Sterling, terrified of catching

COVID-19. @GovofCO there are hundreds of medically vulnerable, sick or elderly prisoners who pose no threat to public safety, but who face a serious risk of dying of COVID-19 in COs crowded prisons.



James Cranfill is a 62 year old grandfather, talented artist & Navy veteran incarcerated in CO. He suffers from chronic inflammatory lung disease, a condition that puts him at grave risk of serious illness & death from COVID-19. @GovofCO a prison sentence should not be a death sentence.



John Peckham is an IT expert & nature enthusiast who requires breathing treatments several times a day & lives in fear of dying in prison. He says, "I am a grandfather of three. I am scared about what will

happen to me if I get COVID-19.” @GovofCO exercise your clemency and commutation powers to save lives behind bars.



Ronald Johnson is a 62-year-old father and grandfather who has turned his life around in prison after being convicted of non-violent offenses related to substance abuse. His daughter, Amber, says, "My deep fear is that my dad will die in prison." @GovofCO you have the power to bring our neighbors safely home



Chris Nye is an accomplished artist, dog trainer, community leader and grandmother with severe asthma who is eager to rejoin her family. In her nearly three decades behind bars, she has turned her life around

and deserves a fighting chance. @GovofCO release at-risk incarcerated people and stop the spread of COVID-19!



Kevin Taylor is a grandfather, mechanic & ordained minister incarcerated in CO. His medical conditions place him at a heightened risk of serious illness or death if he gets covid-19. His mom, Barbara, says, "I don't want to lose my son." @GovofCO take action to bring our neighbors safely home or more people will die both behind bars and in the community.



Marcel is a compassionate, loving father desperate to survive COVID-19 so he can hold his daughter once again. His mother, Michelle, is heartsick that Marcel's daughter, Camblin, may never see her father again.

No parent deserves to live with that fear. @GovofCO do the right thing and release at-risk incarcerated people



Demika is a talented chef, actor & founder of the Women of Influence program, who suffers from severe asthma and deserves a second chance. Demika came to prison as a 25-year-old woman and has since dramatically transformed herself into a leader who works to help others. @GovofCO it is time to #doyourpart and release vulnerable incarcerated people

Graphics:



DECARCERATION DAY OF ACTION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

**TAKE ACTION TO BRING
OUR AT-RISK
NEIGHBORS HOME.**

**ACLU
CO**

INCARCERATED DURING COVID-19: WHERE ARE THEY?

DENVER WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY



**DEMIKA
ROGERS**

Demika is a talented chef, actor and founder of the Women of Influence program, who suffers from severe asthma and deserves a second chance.



**CHRISTINE
NYE**

Chris is an accomplished artist, dog trainer, community leader and grandmother with severe asthma who is eager to rejoin her family.

DENVER RECEPTION & DIAGNOSTIC CENTER



**RONALD
JOHNSON**

Ronald Johnson is a 62-year-old father and grandfather who has turned his life around in prison after being convicted of non-violent offenses related to substance abuse.

ARROWHEAD CORRECTIONAL CENTER



**JOHN
PECKHAM**

John is an IT expert and nature enthusiast who requires breathing treatments several times a day, and lives in fear of dying in prison.

COLORADO STATE PENITENTIARY



**KEVIN
TAYLOR**

Kevin Taylor is a grandfather, mechanic and ordained minister incarcerated at the Colorado State Penitentiary, where COVID-19 is flaring up.

TRINIDAD CORRECTIONAL FACILITY



**JAMES
CRANFILL**

James Cranfill is a 62-year-old grandfather and Navy veteran incarcerated at the Trinidad Correctional Facility. He suffers from chronic inflammatory lung disease, a condition that puts him at grave risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19.



STERLING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY



**ANTHONY
MARTINEZ**

Anthony is an 84-year-old grandfather who has spent 30 years incarcerated for a series of robberies and spends each day confined to a wheelchair in his cell in Sterling, terrified of catching COVID-19.



MARCEL

Marcel is a compassionate, loving father desperate to survive COVID-19 so he can hold his daughter once again.



**GARY
WINSTON**

Gary is a 58-year-old husband, father and grandfather with severe respiratory problems serving a one-year sentence for drug possession at Sterling, the site of Colorado's largest COVID-19 outbreak.



**MICHAEL
KAISER**

Michael Kaiser is a 47-year-old husband, father, and recovering addict who is incarcerated at Sterling Correctional Facility for a non-violent offense, even as COVID-19 tears through the prison.

**NO ONE DESERVES
TO DIE
FROM COVID-19**

**ACLU
CO**

INCARCERATED DURING COVID-19: WHERE ARE THEY?

ACLU
CO



**NO ONE
DESERVES
TO DIE
FROM
COVID-19**

SWIPE FOR THEIR STORIES >

DENVER AREA



2



RONALD JOHNSON

Ronald Johnson is a 62-year-old father and grandfather who has turned his life around in prison after being convicted of non-violent offenses related to substance abuse.

1



DEMIKA ROGERS

Demika is a talented chef, actor and founder of the Women of Influence program, who suffers from severe asthma and deserves a second chance.

1



CHRISTINE NYE

Chris is an accomplished artist, dog trainer, community leader and grandmother with severe asthma who is eager to rejoin her family.

TRINIDAD AREA

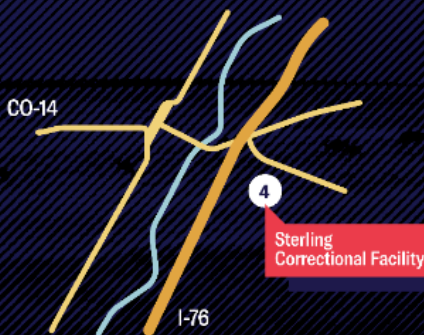


JAMES CRANFILL

James Cranfill is a 62-year-old grandfather and Navy veteran incarcerated at the Trinidad Correctional Facility. He suffers from chronic inflammatory lung disease, a condition that puts him at grave risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19.



STERLING AREA



GARY WINSTON

Gary is a 58-year-old husband, father and grandfather with severe respiratory problems serving a one-year sentence for drug possession at Sterling, the site of Colorado's largest COVID-19 outbreak.

STERLING AREA (CONTINUED)



4



MARCEL

Marcel is a compassionate, loving father desperate to survive COVID-19 so he can hold his daughter once again.

4



ANTHONY MARTINEZ

Anthony is an 84-year-old grandfather who has spent 30 years incarcerated for a series of robberies and spends each day confined to a wheelchair in his cell in Sterling, terrified of catching COVID-19.

4



MICHAEL KAISER

Michael Kaiser is a 47-year-old husband, father, and recovering addict who is incarcerated at Sterling Correctional Facility for a non-violent offense, even as COVID-19 tears through the prison.

CAÑON CITY AREA



5



**KEVIN
TAYLOR**

Kevin Taylor is a grandfather, mechanic and ordained minister incarcerated at the Colorado State Penitentiary, where COVID-19 is flaring up.

6



**JOHN
PECKHAM**

John is an IT expert and nature enthusiast who requires breathing treatments several times a day, and lives in fear of dying in prison.

**TELL THE GOVERNOR
TO RELEASE**

**VULNERABLE
INCARCERATED
PEOPLE.**



**#DOINGMY
PARTCO**

ACLU
CO

ADVOCACY FROM HOME

NO ONE DESERVES
TO DIE
FROM COVID-19

ACLU
CO

Covid-19 Decarceration Panel

**Hear from the families
of incarcerated Coloradans**

Virtual event on Wednesday, August 26, 4pm