May 24, 2024

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Nadler, Chairman Comer, and Ranking Member Raskin:

We write to respectfully request that your committees investigate and hold hearings on the recent closure and transfer of inmates from the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facility Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Dublin, the facility’s past pervasive culture of abuse, and BOP facilities and their treatment of inmates more broadly. Such action is essential to answer outstanding questions and provide much-needed oversight of BOP.

In the weeks since BOP announced the closure of FCI Dublin on Monday, April 15, 2024, we have heard from former inmates who were recently released, family of inmates who have since been transferred from FCI Dublin, and advocates—all of whom have told us about shocking abuses that took place during the mass inmate transfers. The alleged abuses, some of which are described in the Temporary Restraining Order filed on April 19, 2024, include whistleblower retaliation, inhumane treatment, and withholding of necessary medical care. These abuses have also been widely reported in the press.¹ This level of disregard for human dignity cannot be tolerated. Additionally, the frantic nature of the closure of FCI Dublin reflects a lack of adequate planning and proper safeguards to protect the rights of inmates.

Further, as you may know, there has been a tragic and unacceptable history of long-term abuse of inmates at FCI Dublin. On April 5, 2024, U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers appointed Special Master Wendy Still, the first such appointment in the history of federal prisons in the United States, to oversee FCI Dublin’s compliance with federal law and constitutional

requirements. We share a belief in the importance of Special Master Still’s mandate and are concerned that the closure of the prison will delay or deny much-needed accountability.

Following the closure of the facility, several U.S. Senators and Members of Congress have sent letters to BOP Director Colette Peters and Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding accountability for past crimes and answers to outstanding questions. Earlier this month, Judge Gonzalez Rogers issued a new order on FCI Dublin, which lays out publicly the entirety of the Dublin closure as the court understands it, and chronicles some concerning details, including that the closure was buried in an administrative filing to the court on the Friday before the closure was announced and begun and that inmates repeatedly had their credits miscalculated to their disadvantage.\(^2\) As a result of Judge Gonzalez Rogers’ review of irregularities in FCI Dublin’s casework records, multiple inmates had their release dates advanced by several weeks.

Committee investigations and hearings would allow Congress to address past and current issues and hear directly from decision makers in BOP and the Department of Justice about their plans for this facility, including how the closure was planned and executed, and their efforts to ensure this sinister culture of abuse is not replicated in other BOP facilities. We thank you for considering our request and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress