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Contact: Taylor Hopkins, (407) 675-6412, press@floridarrc.org

Florida Rights Restoration Coalition Takes Action Against COVID-19 Crisis in Jails and Prisons

ORLANDO, FL (August 14, 2020) — The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition is taking action against the rapid spread of COVID-19 in correctional facilities through a call to action to Florida leaders like Governor Ron DeSantis, and Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Mark S. Inch. The call to action is intended to point out the rapid rise of COVID in Florida's prisons and demand the adoption of policies that will protect the imprisoned population in the state of Florida.

COVID-19 has continued to plague the jail and prison population in Florida, often leading to mass sickness and death. In the past weeks, 300 Florida inmates have tested positive for COVID and at least 60 deaths have occurred. The number of positive cases in corrections facilities is steadily increasing due to a lack of protection among incarcerated people and staff.

“The continuous rise in the number of positive cases that have occurred in the jail and prison population is a crisis, and a reminder for us to put people over politics, said FRRC’s Executive Director, Desmond Meade. Meade is currently serving as a commissioner on the National Commission on COVID, chaired by former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez and former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch. “While incarcerated people are serving their debts to society, it is vital to remember that they are people with fundamental dignity who have families that desire them to someday safely return to society”.

During these times of uncertainty, FRRC is continuing to work towards the safety of the imprisoned population. The organization has delivered nearly 100,000 masks to local jails and prisons throughout the state of Florida. Through the demand of proper protection, and transparency in quarantine and testing procedures, safety can and will be ensured across Florida correctional facilities.

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About The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition

FRRC is a grassroots, membership organization run by Returning Citizens (Formerly Convicted Persons) who are dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions and creating a more comprehensive and humane reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety. For more information, visit <https://floridarrc.com/>.