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April 6, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

The Bar Association of San Francisco applauds your efforts thus far to limit the spread of COVID-19 throughout California. To that end, we urge you to strongly consider the vital recommendations made to you by medical health experts throughout the State in the enclosed letter to protect the lives of the people impacted by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), including people in custody, staff at CDCR, the surrounding communities and the family members and communities of staff and those who are incarcerated in county jails.

We recognize the need to ensure public safety remains paramount – perhaps even more so during an emergency. To that end, we urge close evaluation to ensure as best as possible that those who present genuine security concerns be detained or remain incarcerated even while prison populations are otherwise drastically reduced and that investments be made to increase resources for discharge planning and re-entry transitions to facilitate prison release of people under any revised policies. Additional work is also needed to ensure supports in the community exist for those released. However, we believe the temporary, but immediate measures recommended by the medical health experts in the enclosed letter will best allow our entire community to remain safe during this emergency.

Link: <https://medium.com/@lee.riley/ca-public-health-experts-urge-gov-newsom-to-release-elderly-and-medically-vulnerable-from-prisons-f41ed7cdbc7f>

Sincerely,

Stuart Plunkett
President, The Bar Association of San Francisco



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF
SAN FRANCISCO

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