



## A Professional Mandate

It is a legal and ethical requirement of medical and social service professionals to not only report every single instance of abuse, but to advocate on behalf of the victim. It is time to remove every barrier to telling the truth, and every obstacle in the way of justice or the effort to obtain it, so that doctors, nurses, social workers, guards, and every professional can stand up for what we know is right. We are stronger together, and together we can make our voices heard and see our demands for justice met. We are building a coalition to develop a robust reporting mechanism of elder abuse, educate ourselves and our community, and advocate for the release of every senior citizen and ill person who is incarcerated. We need your help! Join us as we build a campaign for medical justice. Because prison elder abuse concerns everyone.

**We the people call upon our professional community to stand with us!**

## Quote

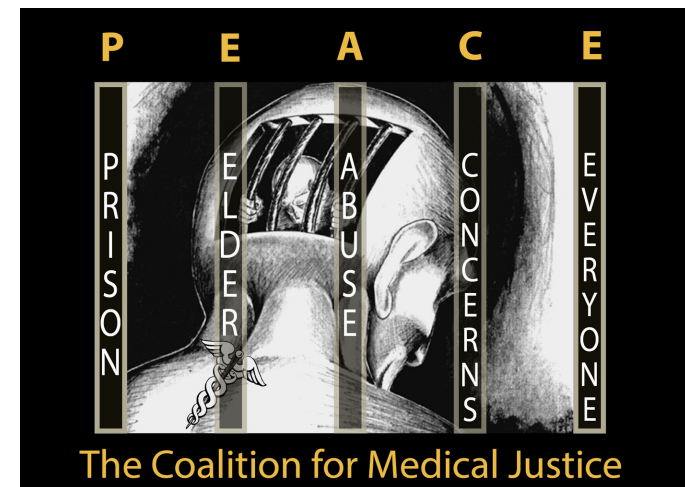
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**Mission: To secure the release of every incarcerated elder and ill person**

*Read on to understand why this is so important, and how you can help.*

## Mass Incarceration Has Gotten Old

Decades have passed since the 1994 crime bill ushered millions of people away from our communities and into prison cells. Today, many of those imprisoned are grandparents. They are sick, and they are dying – away from their family who loves them, their community that needs them home. The statistics are in – **people 55 and older have about 2% chance of recidivism.** So why is it that **billions of our tax dollars** – dollars that could be used to address issues with health care, education and educational debt, infrastructure, and public safety – are being used to house the old people? There are very few who benefit from higher numbers of incarcerated old people.

## Quote

## Elder Abuse and Medical Neglect



To make matters worse, the conditions in prisons – unhealthy food, lack of exercise, minimal exposure to nature or loving community, terrible air and water quality, mental, physical, and spiritual abuse – make our people age faster and obtain diseases they would not otherwise. This is not only a further burden on the tax payer. This is abuse. Prisoners often are treating their own wounds, developing undiagnosed cancer and carrying untreated diseases, and this has been the case before this era of pandemics.

### Quote

## Outrage is the only response!



It is time to get angry. There is no left or right on this issue. No matter your race, gender, class, beliefs, nationality, etc, you understand that this concerns every one of us. We all love our grandmothers and grandfathers, and we know that people who are old and who are sick pose no threat to our community and just need to be home. We must come together to demand they all be released NOW!

## APHA Position Paper: Harms of the Carceral System are a Public Health Concern

This American Public Health Association Policy Statement details the ways incarceration has failed to improve public safety, rehabilitate individuals, or create justice, and instead has been a source of abuse and has wasted public resources. Through the statement, the APHA makes it clear – to build healthy communities we must take action for our elderly and sick prisoners and release all of them “regardless of conviction.” At the same time, we must reallocate funding to establish stronger community support systems with the resources that create health and safety – for released prisoners and for everyone, “including affordable, quality, and accessible housing, health care, employment, education, and transportation.” Regarding “health harms of incarceration on individuals, families, and communities” the position paper reads:

"In addition to greater risk of COVID-19 infection, incarcerated people have a higher prevalence of acute and chronic health conditions than the general U.S. population. This includes higher rates of HIV and other infectious diseases, mental health diagnoses, hypertension, heart-related problems, diabetes, asthma, and stroke, along with overall lower life expectancy. Higher rates of these chronic conditions among incarcerated people have been attributed to the experience of incarceration itself... Emerging public health research also points to “spillover” effects... for non-incarcerated community members, including county-level mortality, individual-level preterm birth, and depression and anxiety."