



Congressman

RAUL M. GRIJALVA

Serving the people of Arizona's 7th District

Justice is Not For Sale Act

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As our country faces the reality of a justice system that disproportionately harms people of color and immigrants, it is essential to root out contributing factors to unfair incarceration. Right now perverse profit incentives are paving the way for a pro-incarceration agenda. With more than 2.3 million people incarcerated today, the United States locks up more of its population than any other country. Mass incarceration destroys lives, families and communities.

Meanwhile, a handful of corporations who provide correctional services profit tremendously from mass incarceration, and have lobbied for more draconian criminal laws. Operation of prisons and immigrant detention centers should be carried out by those responsible to the American people, not those motivated by profit margins.

A 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Inspector General report concluded that private prisons had a 28% higher rate of inmate-on-inmate assaults and more than twice as many inmate-on-staff assaults compared with federally run or operated prisons.

Private prisons are cutting corners, endangering corrections officers and prisoners, and not saving money. While President Biden's executive order that ends DOJ contracts with private prisons is a good first step, the Justice is Not for Sale Act will make this permanent and apply to for-profit immigration detention centers and State and local private prisons as well.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

Ends our reliance on for-profit corrections companies and will reverse a major motivating factor of over incarceration.

- Bars the Department of Justice from contracting with private entities to provide and/or operate prisons and detention facilities within 2 years.
- Bars state and local governments from contracting with private entities to provide and/or operate prisons and detention centers within 2 years. This includes for-profit civil commitment centers, return to custody units, community corrections and treatment centers, halfway houses and re-entry programs.
- Increases oversight and prevents companies from overcharging inmates and their families for services like banking and telephone calls.
- Conducts oversight of immigration detention facilities to ensure the humane treatment of detainees.
- Prohibits the detention of families and replaces family detention with alternatives that are community-based and community-supported. Case management programs operated by nonprofit organizations have been proven to be successful.

Supported by: Immigration Equality Action Fund, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Consumer Action, Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Democracy for America, Grassroots Leadership, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Just Futures Law, The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, Justice Strategies, National Immigrant Justice Center, National Immigration Project, NETWORK Lobby, Mijente, Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), Students for Sensible Drug Policy and StoptheDrugWar.org, Indivisible, Presente.org