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RE: Mass Illnesses/Medical Complications Due To Toxic Black Mold

To Whom it May Concern;

I was directed to contact your office concerning a grave situation here within the Rhode Island Dept. of Corrections. A situation which is well known and admitted to by those individuals responsible for those housed here in the Maximum Security facility of Rhode Island.

This situation is truly one that needs your expert help and attention.

I know this letter may be lengthy; however, please read it in its entirety.

Within this letter I will provide you with details, information, and evidence which cannot be disputed.

Please allow me to first explain. I am a Virginia inmate being housed here in Rhode Island against my will. Prior to my arrest I had a successful residential home and renovation business which I also used to purchase residential homes and commercial properties to renovate for resale purposes. Please understand I have a nonviolent conviction of larceny of less than \$300.00 which is now a misdemeanor in the state of Virginia and I will be released in five months. (If I survive within these walls.) The equivalent of a misdemeanor crime and nonviolent offense has now been converted to a sentence of death. I do apologize if that sounds dramatic; however, it is certainly without doubt a true statement. Please allow me to explain.

I arrived here in Rhode island at the Intake Facility on June 8, 2021. Having a background in construction I noticed the very distinct pungent odor black mold, the toxic variant. No other mold smells like it. I was then taken to a holding area, then a cell. The entire place was infected with black mold. The tiles in the dining area were falling out covered in this toxic black mold.

When I mentioned it I was threatened by staff if I didn't keep my mouth shut. I eventually went to Medium Security where it also had the ceilings falling out from last leaks and anyone could see a large quantity of black mold in the open ceiling areas and walls.

Here in Maximum Security the situation is a hundred times worse. This building was built in the 1800's and is over 140 years old. Very little has been done to it since. In 1977 a Judge

Raymond J. Pettine declared that the ACI facilities were unfit for human habitation/life. Even stating the ventilation within the facility was inadequate/causing various health concerns, as well as other issues making the facility unsafe for human habitation.

Judge Pettine went further to order that the Rhode Island Dept. of Corrections (RIDOC) to correct the SHOCKING conditions.

Sadly this man, having compassion for human life (Judge Pettine), retired soon after and since then nothing has been done to upgrade or correct the issues.

Instead the powers that is entrusted with the care of thousands of lives over the years since, have ignored the ruling. Ignored may not be the appropriate word but RIDOC has refused to do anything by getting various courts and judges to give them detentions or various ways to avoid the costly renovations. Even using their favorite defense of UNDUE BURDEN. In many circumstances that would be a great defense; however, their own undeniable actions prove there was no UNDUE BURDEN.

First in the 1990's the RIDOC set aside and used over \$61,000,000.00 dollars (YES \$61 MILLION) of the tax payer's money to build a new Medium Security facility. Money that could have been used to restore and/or upgrade this facility and the old Medium Security facility and a lot less costly to the tax payers. Even after opening the facility they had bed space to house everyone from the old Medium Security and this Maximum Security facility. Right now 50% to 60% of this Maximum Security facility is unused and Medium Security has a large amount of open beds that could be utilized to house all the inmates from here and close this mid evil structure down and save the tax payers millions. But they won't do that because it will take from their \$261 million dollar budget.

Without this facility they wouldn't need nearly as many staff and correctional officers and the millions spent in overtime would be saved. Yes, they have a full staff for half a building and they work overtime when they are not even needed. Costing the tax payers millions in overtime not even needed. Even after building the new Medium Security facility the RIDOC still refuses to do anything to do any repairs and/or renovations to this facility. It's been left to fall to ruin as well as the staff and inmates health left to ruin in these toxic conditions.

Please note that the RIDOC has not only not made any attempt to adhere to Judge Pettine's lawful order, but the RIDOC hasn't bothered to maintain any of its facilities. Every one of the facilities are left to fall apart. Small halfhearted repairs and patches are made, but nothing else.

The RIDOC spends the largest portion of their \$261 million dollar budget on not just salaries, but huge pay hikes every year and millions in overtime. If there is an UNDUE BURDEN then why or is it possible for staff and officers to get raises and millions in overtime to run a facility at half occupancy with a full staff. This is one of the smallest facilities in the country or maybe even the smallest, but it has one of the highest budgets of

the United States prisons if you consider per capita. Keep in mind that the \$261 million doesn't include federal funds also provided as well as kickbacks given to the RIDOC for products and services inmates and their families purchase.

I won't make any unsubstantiated accusations, but if I were a tax payer of Rhode Island I would want answers. A \$261 million dollar state budget plus several more million from the federal government and other sources, but every single building and facility is unfit for human life. Yes they have their little group tours for so called inspections and officials to view the facilities, but no inmate is permitted to talk to them and the areas they are hand directed to see, are all staged so it appears to look so nice for us but it's only a few out of the many in horrific conditions.

I am presently in a cell that was subjected to constant flooding. It was closed off due to this and no one was assigned to this cell because of the severity of the leak. Eventually it was fixed but it was badly covered in areas of black mold. I was already complaining about the conditions here because I have COPD. I admit it was a mild case but having worked in construction and familiar with mold remediation I know the dangers associated with it. Especially if you have COPD or any respiratory issues. I'm sure you are already aware that Mycotoxins are not something to ignore or play with.

I watched as numerous inmates were directed to and told to scrape walls covered in black mold and then simply paint over it. I made it known that they (staff) were placing those inmates doing the work at risk as well as everyone in close proximity, because the dust from the mold is toxic and once airborne it travels throughout the facility placing everyone at risk. Soon after, I was put in this cell (Prudence 2 Cell 75). It was partially painted but the paint was already bubbling and peeling from the paint not being able to adhere to the walls due to mold. Even after scraping the mold it's in the pores of the wall, ceiling, etc... And the mold will thrive once again behind that moist paint in semi darkness. I have to clean my cell several times a day to keep the peeling paint, mold, and iron oxide (also toxic) off everything. On the walls, in the corners, under the bunk, and around the toilet are large quantities of black mold and iron oxide. I notified several staff, officers, Warden Corry, Deputy Warden Hahn, and Cpt Duffy who ordered I be put in this cell to make sure I suffer and hopefully die. He is very aware that I have COPD and it is well documented in medical here, but when I told him, he only laughed and said I will never be able to prove anything.

My family has sent numerous emails to numerous staff including the Director Patricia Coyne-Fague, Warden Corry, and Deputy Warden Hahn about the black mold and my having COPD, but they deny it being as bad as it actually is and Cpt. Duffy made it very clear to everyone not to move me under any circumstances even if I'm dying, which already happened to one inmate in here just a couple of weeks ago who had lung issues.

His name is Robert E. Lamoureux, he was 62 and yes serving a life sentence and had already served over 20 years but he still didn't deserve to die in here like that. He did have

lung cancer or some lung issue that required one of his lungs to be removed. But as soon as he got back from hospital he was put in Aquidneck 1 Cell 33. I was in that cell prior to this one. It was also covered in black mold and iron oxide. He would beg to be moved because he couldn't breathe but Cpt. Duffy ordered that he must not be moved for any reason. Robert (Bobby) begged for help. The showers were right in front of the cell and the moisture content from the steam coming in the cell was horrible. The moisture alone was killing him but the mold was thriving as well as the iron oxide. No one would lift a finger to help him. He literally fell out before anything was done and he passed soon after. I have no doubt if an autopsy were done on his remaining lung it will be full of mold and iron oxide. My family has tried to locate his family so they know the truth but we can't find any of his family. They deserve the truth. Maybe your office can locate and help them seek justice for him. As soon as he passed it was orders that his cell be scraped and painted. That cell still remains empty. The conditions in there was so horrible.