**Dear Supporter,**

[Insert name of your organization], in collaboration with allied organizations across the state, is participating in a week of action starting this **Monday, April 20th** to call on Governor Mills and other power holders to exercise their authority to #ReleaseOurLovedOnes from county jails and DOC facilities, while ensuring anyone remaining inside can adhere to CDC guidelines for safe physical distancing and properly protect themselves and correctional staff from Covid-19 exposure and community transmission.

**We are calling on Governor Janet Mills to direct the Department of Corrections and County Jail Commissioners to prioritize the following groups of people for immediate release:**

* Those at especially high risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from the virus due to their age, preexisting conditions or pregnancy status;
* Those with less than two years on their sentence;
* Primary caretakers of children and elderly loved ones;
* All currently incarcerated youth at LongCreek.

You can read the full text of our demands [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSec8mX4nEHzExHJ29u28FD2NWjKIMZoxfjHTiA1dDUI5RpKwA/viewform).

**We are also calling on the Governor to address homelessness by issuing an executive order to utilize our state’s Emergency General Assistance program to fund extended stays in hotels and motels, so newly released are not sent to congregate shelters during the statewide civil emergency.** You can read the full letter of housing recommendations [here](https://forms.gle/D8XqXp8bMPknYbr2A).

We invite you to join a robust coalition of Maine organizers, advocates, harm reductionists, and directly-impacted community members in our Week of Action to **#DecarcerateME**, **#FreeOurYouth** and **#ReleaseOurLovedOnes**. A full schedule is outlined below, and you can access a [digital toolkit](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1uwlfdfgnahuesEzOxk2hKJV5FR0EjGHR) with shareable graphics, templates and sample social media messaging. Please note that there are folders of materials and instructions for each day, and information will be added on a rolling basis throughout the week.

Follow our social media accounts throughout the week on Facebook [insert link] and Twitter [insert handle] and Instagram [insert handle] to receive details on daily actions. Organizers are hosting a webinar to dive more deeply into these efforts and ongoing organizing against mass incarceration in Maine on **Monday, April 20th @ 4:45 PM**. [Register today](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqd--qrT4iEta9piIk_gGxA-Sf6e4ZgDbs)! You can also reach out to [insert email of contact person] with any questions!

In Solidarity,

[Your signature]

**FREE INCARCERATED MAINERS!**

**WEEK OF ACTION: 4/20-4/24**

**MONDAY - April 20th**

* Press Release goes out to announce [collective demands](https://forms.gle/hUFRS2WEGYNwGtp86) for decarceration in Maine.
* Begin circulating [online petition](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/releaseourlovedones/) for individuals to sign-on to group demands, which then delivers emails to inboxes of political targets with each signature.
* Share out graphics [insert link to folder] that break down demands via social media using #DecarcerateME, #ReleaseOurLovesOnes, #FreeOurYouth and #CloseLongCreek
* [Webinar](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqd--qrT4iEta9piIk_gGxA-Sf6e4ZgDbs) @ 4:45 PM for public education on demands and Week of Action. [Register](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqd--qrT4iEta9piIk_gGxA-Sf6e4ZgDbs) in advance.

**TUESDAY - April 21st**

* Focus: Public Health
* Action: Tweet storm on Twitter @ 1-2 PM calling on Dr. Shah (@nirav\_mainecdc) and the Maine CDC (@MEPublicHealth) to urge Governor Mills to decarcerate.Tweet & retweet using #DecarcerateME, #ReleaseOurLovesOnes, #FreeOurYouth and #CloseLongCreek.
* Action: Those not on Twitter can call the Maine CDC and leave a message for Dr. Shah: (207) 287-8016.

**WEDNESDAY - April 22nd**

* Focus: Voices of Lived Experience
* Action: Share brief video clips, quotes & photos of people with lived experiences of incarceration and/or their loved ones that include messages of why decarcerating is critical. Share on social media platforms using #DecarcerateME, #ReleaseOurLovesOnes, #FreeOurYouth and #CloseLongCreek
* Action: Phone Flood to offices of Governor Mills (207-287-3531), DOC Commissioner Liberty (207) 287-4360) & Associate Commissioner of Juvenile Services O’Neill (207) 287-4362).

**THURSDAY - April 23rd**

* Focus: Addressing Homelessness & Improving G.A.
* Action: Call (207-287-4223) and/or email ([Jeanne.M.Lambrew@maine.gov](mailto:Jeanne.M.Lambrew@maine.gov)) DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew’s office and implore her to work with the Governor to make Emergency General Assistance more readily available to people being released and keep as many folks as possible out of congregate shelters. Review [collective recommendations](https://forms.gle/MdfxGwSnnUSLGdfR6) for providing transition housing support to individuals facing homelessness.
* Action: Post a selfie with a sign that tells us why housing is health care, especially during a pandemic. Use #DecarcerateME, #ReleaseOurLovesOnes, #FreeOurYouth and #CloseLongCreek in your posts.

**FRIDAY - April 24th**

* Focus: Solidarity With Our Loved Ones Inside
* Action: Direct Action @ 12-1 PM in multiple locations across the state. Want to participate? FMI: email [ceallen@colby.edu](mailto:ceallen@colby.edu).
* Action: Tune in on social media @ 12-1 PM and share videos and pictures of the direct action using hashtags #DecarcerateME, #ReleaseOurLovesOnes, #FreeOurYouth and #CloseLongCreek.