

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tzedek Association and Unify.US Lead Conservative Coalition Urging Congress to Fully Fund the Federal Bureau of Prisons**

*Leading conservative organizations warn that staffing shortages threaten prison safety, correctional officers, and successful implementation of the First Step Act.*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — A coalition of some of the **nation's leading conservative and center-right organizations** is calling on Congress to fully fund President Trump's Fiscal Year 2027 budget request for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), warning that years of chronic understaffing are jeopardizing institutional safety, disrupting rehabilitation programs, and placing correctional officers at unnecessary risk.

Led by Tzedek Association and Unify.US, the coalition today sent a [joint letter](#) to the leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees urging lawmakers to provide the Bureau with the resources needed to restore staffing levels, strengthen prison security, and preserve the evidence-based programming that has helped reduce recidivism under the First Step Act.

The coalition includes **Tzedek Association, Unify.US, Right on Crime, Americans for Public Safety, Faith & Freedom Coalition, Due Process Institute, Prison Fellowship, and Conservatives for Criminal Justice Reform.**

The organizations argue that persistent staffing shortages have forced the Bureau to rely heavily on "augmentation"—requiring chaplains, teachers, counselors, medical personnel, and other professional staff to leave their primary responsibilities and work correctional officer posts instead. According to the coalition, this practice not only weakens institutional security but also interrupts educational, vocational, substance abuse, and other recidivism-reduction programs that are essential to successful rehabilitation.

"Supporting the Bureau of Prisons is supporting law enforcement," said Rabbi Moshe Margaretten, President of Tzedek Association. "The men and women who work in our federal prisons perform one of the toughest jobs in law enforcement, yet they continue to shoulder the burden of chronic understaffing. Congress should provide the Bureau with the resources necessary to protect correctional officers, maintain safe institutions, and ensure that proven rehabilitation programs remain available to those working to rebuild their lives."

The coalition notes that staffing shortages contribute to mandatory overtime, employee burnout, declining morale, and increased security risks while preventing inmates from accessing programs specifically designed to reduce future crime and improve public safety.

"A safe, secure, and properly staffed federal prison system is a core responsibility of government," said David Safavian, Chief Operating Officer of Unify.US. "Fully funding the Bureau of Prisons is not simply a budget decision—it's an investment in public safety, stronger institutions, safer working conditions for correctional professionals, and better outcomes for the communities to which inmates eventually return."

The organizations urged Congress to approve the Administration's full FY 2027 funding request, emphasizing that properly funding the Bureau of Prisons represents a bipartisan investment in law enforcement, public safety, accountability, and successful reentry.

Today's announcement follows another significant criminal justice initiative by Tzedek Association. Yesterday, the organization sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee supporting the nomination of Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche to serve as Attorney General of the United States, citing his leadership in implementing the First Step Act, modernizing the Federal Bureau of Prisons, expanding rehabilitation programs, protecting religious liberty, and combating antisemitism.

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### **About Tzedek Association**

Tzedek Association is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing criminal justice reform, religious liberty, humanitarian relief, and public policy initiatives that strengthen families and communities. The organization has worked extensively with Congress, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the White House on landmark initiatives including the First Step Act, prison rehabilitation, compassionate release, reentry, and correctional policy. Tzedek also leads major humanitarian efforts both in the United States and abroad. For more information visit [www.tzedekassociation.org](http://www.tzedekassociation.org).

### **About Unify.US**

Unify.US is a nonprofit public policy organization dedicated to advancing principled, bipartisan solutions that strengthen American institutions, promote individual liberty, and improve government accountability. The organization works with policymakers, advocacy organizations, and stakeholders across the political spectrum to develop practical reforms that enhance public safety, constitutional governance, and effective public policy. For more information visit [www.unify.us](http://www.unify.us).