

April 5, 2021

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 4002  
Olympia, WA 98504

Sent by electronic mail

Dear Governor Inslee,

The undersigned organizations write to strongly encourage your support of EHB 1090, which would end for-profit detention in Washington. This bill enjoyed strong bipartisan support in the legislature, and we urge you to sign this important measure to protect the health and safety of all people in the state.

For-profit prisons cut corners on operational costs and maximize profits by hiring fewer guards and qualified medical staff and providing staff with less training and pay, leading to violent, unsanitary conditions that threaten the public health and safety. EHB 1090 will ensure that our state puts people over profit by banning facilities operated by for-profit, private companies now and in the future so that no more abusive facilities can take root here.

EHB 1090 will promote racial equity and accountability within our justice system. For-profit prisons disproportionately incarcerate people of color, and for-profit prison companies operate with little or no oversight while providing poor quality services, such as inadequate medical care. The harms of for-profit incarceration are compounded by the pandemic, where people confined within congregate detention settings are at heightened risk of exposure and illness from the virus without the medical attention they need.

We need this bill to take effect immediately to prevent harmful private detention contract extensions that would frustrate the purpose of the bill. California's experience offers a useful lesson—after passage of its landmark legislation banning for-profit prisons, private prison companies raced to sign four contract extensions before the California bill's effective date. Companies like the GEO Group dodged the California law by rushing to sign these long-term contract extensions worth billions of dollars, in a backdoor process that likely violated federal procurement laws. California also stands as proof that companies like the GEO Group will try to extend contracts and challenge the law in court. Private prison companies are moving fast because they know that the door is closing on their business model. By retaining the emergency clause, we can ensure the bill remains as strong as possible in the face of any legal challenges.

This bill is broader than any one facility. By signing this bill, you will ensure that no more for-profit prisons set up shop in our state. Moreover, with this bill, Washington State has an historic opportunity to lead the nation in the movement to abolish for-profit prisons.

Thank you for your support,

La Resistencia  
Columbia Legal Services  
Never Again Seattle  
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Seattle Chapter  
Transit Riders Union  
Casa Latina  
The United Churches of Olympia  
MomsRising  
Puget Sound Sage  
Bill of Rights Defense Committee-Tacoma  
AFSC Oregon  
Tsuru for Solidarity - Seattle  
Wallingford Indivisible  
SEIU 775  
Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network  
Pueblo Unido PDX  
Freedom for Immigrants  
Social Environmental Alliance  
Asian Counseling and Referral Service  
Faith Action Network  
Real Change  
Global Rights Advocacy  
Khmer Anti-Deportation Advocacy Group of WA (KhaagWA)  
Vashon-Maury SURJ ` Showing Up for Racial Justice  
Jewish Voice for Peace-Seattle  
Doctors for Camp Closure--OR Chapter  
FIGHT  
Working Washington/Fair Work Center  
Centro Latino  
Latino Civic Alliance  
Trans Women of Color Solidarity Network  
ACLU-WA  
OneAmerica  
Mijente  
Pierce County AIDS Foundation  
Indivisible Skagit  
Gender Justice League  
Gambian Talents Promotion  
Community Acupuncture Project  
Burien White Center Community Support Network  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest

Party for Socialism and Liberation of Washington  
Birchwood Food Desert Fighters  
BASTA Coalition of Washington: Preventing Farmworker Sexual Harassment  
Jefferson County Immigration Rights Advocates  
Latino Community Fund of Washington State  
Stop Veolia Seattle  
Congregation Beth Shalom Immigrant Justice Group  
Olympia Indivisible  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
OCA Asian Pacific Advocates - Greater Seattle  
MAPS-AMEN (American Muslim Empowerment Network)  
Liberated Voices WA  
Institutional Climate Action  
International Human Rights Clinic, Seattle Univ. School of Law  
Indivisible Tacoma  
St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
Latino Advocacy  
Densho  
Washington Defender Association  
Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
John T. Williams Organizing Committee  
IfNotNow Seattle  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
CAIR Washington  
Chinatown-International District (CID) Coalition  
ACLU Burien People Power  
InterIm CDA  
Seattle Indivisible  
Church Council of Greater Seattle  
Washington Black Lives Matter Alliance  
Abolitionists of Pierce County  
A Sacred Passing: Death Midwifery and Education  
LELO/A Legacy of Equality, Leadership and Organizing  
Indivisible Kirkland  
TeamChild  
Abolitionists of Pierce County  
Palestine Solidarity Committee - Seattle  
Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC)  
For The People (FTP)  
Seattle Raging Grannies  
Detention Watch Network  
Forks Human Rights Group  
Seattle Amistad School  
Associated Students of Pacific Lutheran University

Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs  
Indivisible Plus Washington  
Mujer Al Volante  
Indivisible Skagit  
Indivisible Whidbey  
Valley and Mountain Church