

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 23, 2021

MEDIA CONTACT

Miriam Krinsky

krinskym@krinsky.la

818-416-5218

FJP Statement on American Rescue Plan COVID-19 Mitigation Funding

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to the White House's [announcement](#) that the CDC, in partnership with DOJ's Office of Justice Programs, is distributing \$700 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan of 2021 to 64 state and local jurisdictions to support the detection and mitigation of COVID-19 in confinement facilities nationwide:

“Being confined in a prison or jail should not be a death sentence, but during the pandemic, [at least 2,700](#) people have died of COVID-19 in American prisons and jails. These facilities – in which abiding by CDC guidelines is exceedingly challenging – have become some of the worst hotspots in the country due to crowded, unhygienic conditions and inadequate access to sanitation and hygiene procedures. As we see COVID cases back on the rise, this week's announcement from the White House of increased funding for COVID mitigation in confinement facilities is a vitally important and timely step towards ensuring the protection of incarcerated people, correctional staff and our communities in general from the ongoing dangers of the pandemic.

As 35 elected prosecutors wrote in a [joint statement](#) last year, ‘We...have an obligation to protect the safety and wellbeing of *everyone* in our community, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or country of origin. Those obligations extend behind prison walls.’

We commend the Biden administration for their leadership on this issue and encourage local, state and federal leaders to continue to take action to protect those behind bars.”

###

Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).