



FMA ENDORSES HOUSE BILL DESIGNED TO FIX FAILURES AT THE BUREAU OF PRISONS

Legislation will act as a first step to address federal inmates' use of an internal banking system to avoid full and timely restitution and child support payments to victims and children.

Alexandria, VA: In June 2021, *The Washington Post* brought to light a decades-old, government-run banking system within the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) with deposits on hand eclipsing \$150 million. It has been used by thousands of inmates, including some of the country's most notorious, to shelter large sums of money from court-ordered restitution and child support payments. [Congress demanded answers](#). The Federal Managers Association (FMA) issued an [urgent message](#), reiterating its call dating back to 2015, to fix this egregious abuse of victims' rights. In August, the Deputy Attorney General directed BOP to fix the problem "[as promptly as possible](#)." Nine months later, BOP still has not acted well enough to demonstrate its culture of complacency is capable of change.

The incarcerated should not get a pass from making restitution and child support payments to their victims and children. Yet, that is exactly what BOP has regrettably enabled, denying crime victims' "right[s] to *full and timely* restitution as provided in law." We also now know BOP gives federal inmates housed in a special BOP program, and those assigned to privately-operated detention facilities, even greater latitude to evade payments.

The FMA applauds other subject-matter experts within the Department of Justice (DOJ) who have been developing proposals to remedy this long-standing failure. We equally commend Congress for exercising its oversight authority to hold BOP accountable by—as a first step—introducing this Bill to better require BOP to “make their best efforts to see that crime victims are accorded the rights” promulgated in existing statute. Equally important is requiring inmates to make child support payments ordered by family and state courts.

BOP is a DOJ component where complacency has no place. It should not take years to develop and enforce an *effective and modern* policy to require federal inmates to fully and timely pay court-imposed restitution and child support (noting the last rule-making was more than 20 years ago). Sheltering funds, for example, to instead enjoy privileges offered by BOP at cost, is inexcusable.

This issue has crossed numerous prior Administrations. Yet even after more recent public and Congressional scrutiny, BOP administrators have refused to take timely corrective action on their own. In view of that we urge the Deputy Attorney General to mandate this component she supervises take *immediate steps* to end the ongoing and unreasonable delays so victims and children are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Jason Wojdylo, Vice-President for Law Enforcement Operations of the U.S. Marshals Service Chapter at FMA, said, “We endorse this commonsense legislation that will create a task force to significantly improve the noble effort to collect duly ordered, court-imposed restitution and child support from federal inmates. Victims’ rights must no longer be flaunted by inmates from behind bars, prolonging unnecessary pain and suffering. Both sides of the aisle should quickly sign on to this Bill as co-sponsors. In the meantime, we are grateful for Congressman Gooden’s leadership on this issue.”

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