



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

JIM EDGAR
GOVERNOR

March 29, 1993

Mr. Kit Grandon
2715 West Harrison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60612

Dear Mr. Grandon:

Thank you for your letter to the Governor regarding a "Super-Max" correctional facility in the State of Illinois. The Governor has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Governor has taken affirmative steps to address the difficult problem of Illinois' growing prison population. Recently, the Governor dedicated Big Muddy River Correctional Center, a new medium-security institution designed to accommodate over 950 inmates. The Governor's proposed budget for FY 1994 includes money to open a new "boot camp" in Greene County and to expand three existing correctional facilities, and for work camps in East St. Louis.

Still, the Governor believes that we cannot build our way out of the problems contributing to and caused by the burgeoning prison population. Last year, the Governor created the Illinois Task Force on Crime and Corrections. At the Governor's direction, the members of the Task Force, experienced and highly-regarded experts on crime and corrections, studied the problem of prison overcrowding and recommended viable alternatives to building new prisons.

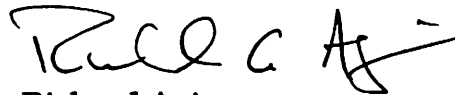
The Task Force concluded, and the Governor agrees, that the prison overcrowding problem in Illinois is due in large part to high rates of "recidivism," drug dependency, and the lack of programs that integrate inmates back into society. Accordingly, as recommended by the Task Force, the Governor supports the expansion of educational, vocational, prison industries, and substance abuse programs; and increased use of impact incarceration (military style boot camps) and electronic home detention for certain carefully screened offenders. Legislation has been introduced, and other action is being taken, to implement these and other reforms.

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The Task Force also concluded that incorrigible inmates are difficult to control and can jeopardize educational, vocational, and other prison programs. The Task Force believes that a "Super-Max" facility, or some alternative that would remove the incorrigible few from the rest of the prison population, is necessary to insure the success of its reform package. The Governor agrees that incorrigible inmates can jeopardize educational, vocational, and other prison programs, but is still evaluating lower-cost alternative solutions, such as the conversion of existing facilities, to this difficult problem.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns with the Governor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Agin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard Agin
Counsel to the Governor

RG:glr