

January 18, 2023

*VIA EMAIL & USPS*

Richard K. Delmar, Deputy Inspector General  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
Office of Inspector General (OIG)  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Room 4436  
Washington, DC 20220  
[delmarr@oig.treas.gov](mailto:delmarr@oig.treas.gov)



**National Political  
Advocacy Department**  
915 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005-2112  
[aclu.org](http://aclu.org)

**Deirdre Schifeling**  
National Political Director

**Anthony D. Romero**  
Executive Director

**Deborah N. Archer**  
President

**Re: The widespread, improper use of COVID relief funds to  
build and expand jails and prisons**

Dear Inspector General Delmar:

We are writing with deep concern about dozens of plans across the country to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) COVID-19 relief funds to build or expand jails and prisons, which is expressly prohibited by the Department of Treasury (“Department”).<sup>1</sup> Allowing these plans to continue would divert hundreds of millions of dollars from their intended purpose of rebuilding communities and local economies. This improper use of recovery funds would exacerbate the crises that predated the pandemic and those that developed as a result of it. A glaring example is the State of Alabama, which has allocated more than \$400 million of its ARPA funding to construct prisons.<sup>2</sup>

As you well know, the Department is empowered to investigate the misuse of ARPA funds.<sup>3</sup> In the event that the Department determines funds have been misused, one option is for it to recoup the funds,<sup>4</sup> but we ask that the Department instead exercise its ability to enforce the rules governing ARPA funding. The Department should require all state and local governments to redirect funds currently designated for jail and prison construction to the community-supportive resources that are permitted by ARPA and are so badly needed by communities impacted by the pandemic. We detail below several examples of state and local plans to misuse ARPA funds for jail or prison construction. This is not an exhaustive list.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Nation, “[Easy Money: How Counties Are Funneling Covid Relief Funds Into New Jails](#),” (July 26, 2022) (reporting on construction plans in at least 20 counties in 18 states); Forbes, “[Jails In Jeopardy Following New Treasury Rule: Federal Covid Relief Must Help People](#),” (January 19, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> NBC News, “[Alabama to use Covid rescue funds to build prisons](#),” (October 2, 2021).

<sup>3</sup> Office of Inspector General, “[Office of Investigations](#),” (August 31, 2022).

<sup>4</sup> 31 C.F.R. § 35.10.

## The American Rescue Plan Act

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law.<sup>5</sup> ARPA established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which appropriated \$350 billion to be distributed to state, tribal, and local governments. This money is “intended to provide support” to those governments “in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain COVID-19 on their communities, residents, and businesses.”<sup>6</sup> The Department of Treasury was tasked with distributing the funds and creating rules for their use.

On May 17, 2021, the Department released the Interim Final Rule laying out guidelines and restrictions for how the funds can be used. After receiving public comment, the Department promulgated a Final Rule governing the use of ARPA funds,<sup>7</sup> which took effect on April 1, 2022, and limited the eligible uses of ARPA funds to the following four categories:

- (a) To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- (b) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
- (c) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- (d) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.<sup>8</sup>

Eligible uses under (a) include “support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities (e.g., nursing homes, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, group living facilities),” “ventilation improvements in congregate settings,” and “[c]apital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs.”<sup>9</sup> Building new jails or prisons, or expanding the footprints of existing ones, does not mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and does not fall under any of the eligible uses of ARPA funds. The Final Rule clearly prohibits constructing a new jail, prison, or detention facility. The Department’s Rule specifically provides:

---

<sup>5</sup> PL 117-2 codified at 42 U.S.C. § 801 *et seq.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> 31 C.F.R. § 35.6; Department of the Treasury, “[Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule](#),” (January 27, 2022).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 4339.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 4353.

“[C]onstructing a new correctional facility would generally not be a proportional response to an increase in the rate of certain crimes or overall crime as most correctional facilities have historically accommodated fluctuations in occupancy. In addition, construction of new congregate facilities, which would generally be expected to involve expenditures greater than \$1 million, would generally not be a proportional response to mitigate or prevent COVID-19, because such construction is generally expected to be more costly than alternative approaches or capital expenditures that may be equally or more effective in decreasing spread of the disease.”<sup>10</sup>

Appropriate uses of ARPA funding are described in the Final Rule and its accompanying guidance and do not include constructing carceral facilities: ARPA “provides vital resources for state, local, and Tribal governments to respond to the pandemic and its economic effects.”<sup>11</sup> The Department acknowledges that lower-income Americans and communities of color may require extra assistance as they were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic even more so than other communities: for example, these impacted communities are “particularly” likely to still be unemployed and unable to pay their bills.<sup>12</sup>

The Final Rule explicitly permits governments to spend ARPA funds on programs that divert people from jail, and on certain practices that demonstrably lower community violence, such as trauma recovery and street outreach.<sup>13</sup> These expenditures are allowed because they lower violence in the community and, in turn, lower rates of incarceration.

In short, the allocation of ARPA funds represents a massive investment in local governments, and that investment has specific restrictions: the funds must be used to help communities recover from COVID-19 or for specific kinds of infrastructure projects such as affordable housing. Jail and prison construction are prohibited.<sup>14</sup>

## **Alabama**

In September 2021, Governor Kay Ivey called a special legislative session to consider the construction of multiple new state prisons.<sup>15</sup> State lawmakers passed a \$1.3 billion package that provides for the construction of two new 4,000-bed prisons for men in Elmore and Escambia counties, with plans for a future women’s prison as well.<sup>16</sup> \$400 million is slated to come from ARPA funds, which is about 20 percent of Alabama’s total COVID relief funds from ARPA.<sup>17</sup> On June 30, 2022, Alabama officials announced they were moving forward with the plan to build

---

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at 4391.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at 4338.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 4373.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 4351, 4356-4357.

<sup>14</sup> At least 17 states are relying on the “lost revenue” provision, claiming based on lost revenue they should be allowed to use the funds to build new prisons, yet there is nothing in the Final Rule that permits states to use ARPA funds for the construction of new prisons. *Supra* note 1; Forbes. *Supra* note 7.

<sup>15</sup> Governor Kay Ivey, “[2021 First Special Session Proclamation](#),” (September 23, 2021).

<sup>16</sup> NBC News, “[Alabama to use Covid rescue funds to build prisons](#),” (October 2, 2021).

<sup>17</sup> CNN, “[Alabama GOP governor signs bills to use Covid-19 relief funds to build prisons into law](#),” (October 1, 2021); The Hill, “[Alabama using COVID funds to build prisons – is that Biden’s vision?](#)” (October 13, 2021).

the two new mega prisons even though they are short \$200 million from a bond sale they were relying upon for the project.<sup>18</sup>

A number of civil rights, social justice, and community-based organizations wrote a letter to Rep. Maxine Waters, Chairwoman of the US House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services, detailing the already dismal conditions in Alabama's prisons, including that the Department of Justice recently sued the Alabama Department of Corrections for routinely violating the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights of incarcerated people.<sup>19</sup> They explained how using ARPA funds to build new prisons would exacerbate the stark racist disparities in the prison population, it would not reduce overcrowding or increase staffing, and it would do nothing to address the devastating impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the state and its constituents.<sup>20</sup> Alabama is the seventh poorest state in the nation, and for the first time in its history, Alabama had more deaths than births because so many people have been killed by COVID-19.<sup>21</sup> Alabama has the second lowest COVID-19 vaccination rate in the United States.<sup>22</sup>

There are many, desperately needed uses of ARPA funds that will go unfunded if the State of Alabama is permitted to spend 20 percent of its funds on building prisons. 42 Alabama organizations penned a letter to the governor outlining their hopes for how the state will invest ARPA funds, including, but not limited to:

- Modernizing and improving state unemployment insurance (UI) technological infrastructure, application, and payment systems.
- Upgrading water and sanitation systems, prioritizing communities with a history of unsafe water quality and waste-water disposal.
- Providing critical infrastructure and equipment (such as trucks, refrigeration, trainers, lift gates, etc.) to local food banks and food pantries to expand emergency food distribution.
- Expanding Alabama's affordable housing capacity, stabilizing families and communities, and reducing homelessness by seeding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund with \$25 million and providing grants for eligible new construction, renovation and maintenance.<sup>23</sup>

Importantly, the prison construction plan repackages a previously failed prison construction plan that had nothing to do with the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Ivey announced a plan to build

---

<sup>18</sup> Prison Legal News, "[Despite \\$200 Million Bond Sale Shortfall, Alabama Moves Forward with New Prison Construction](#)," (August 5, 2022).

<sup>19</sup> ACLU of Alabama Letter to Maxine Waters, Chairwoman of the US House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services, "[Re: Alabama's planned use of \\$400 million in COVID relief funds on building prisons](#)," (December 17, 2021).

<sup>20</sup> *Id.* Notably, DOJ expressly warned that its findings of unconstitutional conditions would not be remediated merely by constructing new prisons without the state addressing the underlying problems enumerated above, to include severe understaffing and horrific medial conditions, which proper redress would only be transferred to any new prisons.

<sup>21</sup> Alabama Possible, "[2021 Barriers to Prosperity Data Sheet](#)," (May 23, 2021); New York Times, "[Covid-stricken Alabama had more deaths than births last year, a first in its recorded history](#)," (September 18, 2021).

<sup>22</sup> US News, "[States With the Worst COVID-19 Vaccination Rates](#)," (September 8, 2022).

<sup>23</sup> Alabama Arise, "[To strengthen the common good: Six principles for allocating Alabama's ARPA funding](#)," (July 7, 2021).

and lease private prisons in February 2019, more than a year before the first COVID case arrived in Alabama.<sup>24</sup> Ultimately, there is no demonstrated relationship between this prison construction plan and the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Iowa

In mid-August, the Scott County Board of Supervisors approved the final plans to build a new, expanded juvenile detention center with ARPA funds.<sup>25</sup> The County began to “break ground” to begin construction **in the fall of 2022**.<sup>26</sup> This plan precedes the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, the Board of Supervisors hired Wold Architect & Engineers to complete an assessment of the juvenile detention center, who then recommended the County build a new, expanded juvenile detention center.<sup>27</sup>

Civil rights, social justice, and community-based organizations wrote a letter to the Board of Supervisors in February after they preliminarily approved plans to use anywhere between \$4.5 million and \$7.5 million of ARPA funds to build a new juvenile detention center.<sup>28</sup> The letter details how this project would exacerbate existing racial disparities in the juvenile justice system at the expense of better alternatives to reduce juvenile delinquency overall. In Scott County, 1 out of every 22 Black children is detained, versus 1 out of every 457 white children.<sup>29</sup> Scott County should focus on reducing the overall number of children in the system and reducing racial disparities. These strategies include developing community-based alternatives to detention, adopting racial impact statements for new policies, better data collection and dissemination, and critical community investments in mental health counseling, violence prevention, and restorative justice.<sup>30</sup>

On September 15, 2022, the Board of Supervisors agreed to not use the approximate \$7 million in ARPA funds for the juvenile detention center project and instead pay for it from the county’s general capital improvement funds.<sup>31</sup> This came after the acting counsel for the Office of the Inspector General for the Department, A.J. Altemus, was quoted disagreeing with Scott County’s plan to use ARPA funds under the revenue loss category, stating “capital expenditure restrictions apply to the use of the \$10 million for lost revenue.”<sup>32</sup> She then referred *The Nation* to the overview of the final rule, which critically states:

---

<sup>24</sup> Montgomery Advertiser, “[Alabama prison plan: Ivey to solicit bids for three new men’s prisons](#),” (February 12, 2019).

<sup>25</sup> KWQC, “[Final plans for Scott County’s new juvenile detention center approved](#),” (August 19, 2022).

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> WQAD, “[Study suggests Scott County needs to grow Jail and Juvenile Detention Center](#),” (June 25, 2019).

<sup>28</sup> ACLU of Iowa Letter to Scott County Board of Supervisors, “[Re: Scott County Board of Supervisors’ Planned Use of ARPA Funds to Build a New, Expanded Juvenile Detention Center](#),” (February 3, 2022).

<sup>29</sup> Muscatine Journal, “[How Should Scott County Address Juvenile Crime? Some Say Build a New Detention Center. Others Advocate for More Investment in Rehabilitative Services](#),” (November 1, 2021).

<sup>30</sup> The Sentencing Project, “[Racial Disparities in Youth Incarceration Persist](#),” (February 3, 2021).

<sup>31</sup> Quad-City Times, “[Supervisors OK solar ordinance](#),” (September 15, 2022).

<sup>32</sup> *Supra* note 1.

“The use of the \$10 million standard allowance for replacing public sector lost revenue must be consistent with use of funds requirements... Treasury presumes that construction of new correctional facilities as a response to an increase in rate of crime is generally ineligible.”<sup>33</sup>

The Department later clarified, “the information provided to the Nation mistakenly conflated the Capital Expenditure- Public Health Negative Economic Impact expenditure category requirements with those of the Revenue Loss expenditure category.”<sup>34</sup> The Department of Treasury must give clear guidance on what is prohibited under each of these categories.

## Maine

Penobscot County is located in northern Maine. With only about 150,000 people spread over roughly 3,500 square miles, it is highly rural and suffers many of the problems that often plague rural America—lack of access to healthcare, a severe opioid epidemic, and a lack of affordable housing. Penobscot’s County Jail is more than 160 years old.<sup>35</sup> It was built to incarcerate 157 people, but since at least 2015 it has routinely imprisoned more people than it is designed to hold.<sup>36</sup>

In mid-2021, Penobscot received \$29.5 million in ARPA funding, more than Penobscot’s annual budget.<sup>37</sup> Then, in December of 2021, after having failed to secure funding for jail expansion for nearly five years, Penobscot announced that it would use ARPA funds to finance the expansion of the jail by more than 100 beds.<sup>38</sup> This received immediate pushback, with local advocates identifying numerous areas where the money could be better spent, including housing and mental health treatment, and identifying ways in which the population of the jail could be decreased.<sup>39</sup> No doubt in part due to local outcry, a month later Penobscot announced that they had realized they could not use ARPA funds to *expand* the jail but could perhaps use the funds to pay for renovations instead.<sup>40</sup>

Since then, from ARPA funds Penobscot has allocated \$53,000 to be spent on repairing the jail elevator, \$140,000 on obtaining a body scanner for the jail, and a million dollars to update the jail control room.<sup>41</sup> Although Penobscot is correct that ARPA funds could not be used to build a

---

<sup>33</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury, “[Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule](#),” (January 2022).

<sup>34</sup> Quad-City Times, “[Federal office clarifies, yes, Scott County YJRC eligible for ARPA funds](#),” (September 14, 2022).

<sup>35</sup> Bangor Daily News, “[Penobscot County wants to add 100 beds to its overcrowded jail](#),” (November 3, 2021).

<sup>36</sup> Bangor Daily News, “[Bangor jail asks for help to ease overcrowding](#),” (October 1, 2015).

<sup>37</sup> Maine Beacon, “[Critics of Penobscot County Jail expansion plan call for decarceration effort](#),” (December 13, 2021).

<sup>38</sup> *Id.*

<sup>39</sup> *Id.*

<sup>40</sup> See [Penobscot County Commissioners Meeting Minutes](#), p.1 (January 11, 2022); [recording of Penobscot County Commissioners Meeting](#), at 11:22 (January 11, 2022), (Commissioner Baldacci stating that in light of Department guidance, “we cannot use ARPA funds for construction of a new jail.”); Bangor Daily News, “[Penobscot County hires Bangor firm to take on overcrowded jail project](#),” (January 12, 2022).

<sup>41</sup> Penobscot County, [SLFRF Compliance Report – SLT-2028-P&E Report Q2 2022](#), (January 27, 2022).

new jail, it is wrong that ARPA funds provide a blank check for jail renovations. Using funds to repair the jail in ways that have no connection to COVID-19 violates ARPA and diverts money from a community in desperate need of improved behavioral health and housing resources.

## Other plans

- **Arkansas:** Benton and Washington Counties in Northwest Arkansas proposed plans to use ARPA funding for jail expansions in early 2022. Those plans received significant pushback from Arkansans who noted these plans were not in compliance with federal law and who wanted to see those funds spent instead on community-supportive resources that would enhance safety and decrease incarceration.<sup>42</sup> Benton County has not returned to discussions on the use of ARPA funds for this purpose. Washington County has slightly scaled back its plans, focusing on COVID-related issues, though local advocates continue to push for alternatives to incarceration.<sup>43</sup>
- **Arizona:** In October 2021, the state announced they allocated \$4.2 million in ARPA funds to renovate the State Department of Corrections executive and administrative offices.<sup>44</sup> Relatedly, on June 30, 2022, after years of the prison system’s failure to provide minimally adequate health care to incarcerated people despite court orders requiring them to do so, a federal judge found that the state of Arizona routinely deprives incarcerated people of their constitutional rights.<sup>45</sup>
- **Indiana:** Knox County commissioners opened bids on their jail expansion project in April 2022 which is slated to use \$4 million of the county’s total \$7 million of ARPA funds.<sup>46</sup>
- **Louisiana:** St. Landry Parish plans to use approximately \$5 million in ARPA funding to expand the jail, which has been sending detainees to other parishes in the state due to overcrowding.<sup>47</sup>
- **Missouri:** St. Charles County plans to use \$25 million in ARPA funding to expand their 700-bed jail.<sup>48</sup>
- **Oklahoma:** In June 2022, voters approved a \$260 million bond to build a new jail in Oklahoma City and the county has a pending request to use \$43 million in ARPA funds to build a mental health facility for the new jail. Local advocates have argued that the

---

<sup>42</sup> On November 8, voters in both Benton and Washington County in Northwest Arkansas defeated tax increases to fund jail expansions on the ballot. Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette, “[After Benton, Washington counties say no to jail expansion proposals, officials seek solutions to crowding](#),” (November 10, 2022).

<sup>43</sup> 5 News Online, “[Washington County passes ordinances giving ARPA funds to the jail](#),” (December 6, 2022).

<sup>44</sup> Phoenix New Times, “[Arizona Prisons Will Spend Millions in Covid Relief Funds on Offices for Executives](#),” (October 8, 2021).

<sup>45</sup> Arizona Republic, “[‘Plainly grossly inadequate’: Arizona prison health care system ruled unconstitutional](#),” (June 30, 2022).

<sup>46</sup> Indiana Economic Digest, “[Knox County to move forward with \\$36 million jail expansion](#),” (April 21, 2022); Knox County, Indiana Board of Commissioners, “[Notice for Proposals](#),” (July 20, 2022).

<sup>47</sup> Daily World, “[St. Landry Parish jail, courthouse could finally expand with use of Rescue Act funds](#),” (July 1, 2021).

<sup>48</sup> St. Charles County, Missouri, “[State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2022 Report](#),” (July 2022).

federal COVID relief funds should be directly used for mental health care, rather than jail infrastructure.<sup>49</sup>

Similar misuses of funds for prison/jail construction are detailed in a recent media report.<sup>50</sup>

### **Government's Response to Misuse of COVID-19 Relief Funding by Individuals**

As highlighted throughout this letter, many states, counties, and other jurisdictions have utilized or expressed their intentions to use ARPA funding for the questionable purpose of building and expanding prisons and jails in contravention of the intended use of such funding. So far, these jurisdictions have faced little to no scrutiny from the federal government. In sharp contrast, however, the federal government has taken on the tremendous task of parsing through and investigating potential fraudulent misuse of COVID funds perpetrated by individuals nationwide.<sup>51</sup>

In Minnesota, for example, the Justice Department criminally charged 48 people with running a brazen fraud against anti-hunger programs during the coronavirus pandemic, stealing \$240 million by billing the government for meals they did not serve to children who did not exist.<sup>52</sup> In 2021, the owner of a home health services business in Michigan was indicted on charges of embezzling government property. The Justice Department's Criminal Division alleges that this business owner intentionally misappropriated government funds that were allocated to aid medical providers in the treatment of patients suffering from COVID-19.<sup>53</sup>

According to the public record, the government has brought criminal charges against more than 1,000 people, and thousands of civil and criminal investigations are ongoing. These cases depict the commitment of the government to ensure aid given by the government is used for its intended purpose. We do not take for granted the immense work the Department of Justice has done in prosecuting largely individuals for their role in pandemic fraud-related matters. As Kevin Chambers, Director for COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement, noted in his remarks at a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis hearing,

“...the United States Government committed \$5 trillion dollars in financial relief for the American people... Each dollar stolen from a relief package was a dollar stolen from the owner of a small restaurant who wanted nothing more than to keep her staff on the payroll, despite an empty restaurant. Each dollar stolen was a dollar that could have gone toward helping unemployed feed their children. Each dollar stolen was a dollar that could

---

<sup>49</sup> The Frontier, “[Despite restrictions, Oklahoma County looking at federal funds to help build a new jail](#),” (September 15, 2022).

<sup>50</sup> Route Fifty, “[House Republicans Attack ARPA as ‘Boondoggle.’ Mayor, Democrats Say it Prevented Layoffs, Saved Lives](#),” (June 14, 2022).

<sup>51</sup> Like the ARPA funding, much of this COVID-19 relief funding was issued quickly and with minimal guidance and little oversight. *Id.*

<sup>52</sup> The New York Times, “[Justice Dept. Charges 48 in Brazen Pandemic Aid Fraud in Minnesota](#),” (September 20, 2022).

<sup>53</sup> Fox Rothschild LLP, “[DOJ Announces First Criminal Prosecution for Misuse of COVID-19 Relief Funds Dedicated to Health Care Providers](#),” (February 26, 2021).

have been used to obtain protective gear, or COVID tests, or other scarce equipment.”<sup>54</sup> (emphasis added).

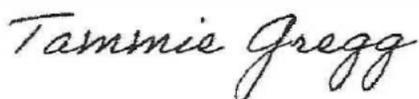
This type of impressive enforcement should happen in the context of ARPA relief funds issued to state and local governments as well. ARPA funds represent an opportunity to move states forward in many areas that would increase opportunity and stability for those impacted by the pandemic. Moreover, ARPA funds provide a generational opportunity to begin remedying policy shortcomings that have held back progress and perpetuated inequality in many states.<sup>55</sup> The investment in prisons instead of people detracts from – and misinterprets – the original mission of COVID relief funds to the detriment of the communities still in need (*see e.g.*, Alabama ACLU’s December 2021 letter attached hereto). The focus on investigating and acting against those who have misused COVID-19-related funding should include state and local government entities, and not be limited to individual bad actors.

We ask you to open an investigation immediately, and immediately communicate to all states and localities receiving ARPA funds, reiterating that they may not use those funds to build or expand jails, prisons, or other detention facilities and that there will be consequences for doing so. We are available to discuss the matters in this letter, and you may contact Tammie Gregg if you have any questions or wish to set up a conversation.

Sincerely,



Christopher E. Anders  
Federal Policy Director  
**ACLU National Political Advocacy Department**  
[canders@aclu.org](mailto:canders@aclu.org)



Tammie Gregg, Deputy Director



Nancy Rosenbloom, Senior Litigation Advisor  
**ACLU National Prison Project**  
[tgregg@aclu.org](mailto:tgregg@aclu.org)  
[nrosenbloom@aclu.org](mailto:nrosenbloom@aclu.org)

---

<sup>54</sup> Department of Justice, “[Statement of Kevin Chambers, Director for COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement](#),” (June 14, 2022).

<sup>55</sup> Economic Policy Institute, “[Alabama is making a costly mistake on COVID-19 recovery funds. Here’s a better path forward](#).” (November 8, 2021).



Tish Gotell Faulks, Legal Director



Alison Mollman, Senior Counsel

**ACLU of Alabama**

[tgfaulks@aclualabama.org](mailto:tgfaulks@aclualabama.org)

[amollman@aclualabama.org](mailto:amollman@aclualabama.org)

Cc: JaTaune Bosby Gilchrist, Executive Director  
**ACLU of Alabama**

Mark Stringer, Executive Director  
**ACLU of Iowa**

Arthur Padilla, Executive Director  
**ACLU of Maine**

Holly Dickson, Executive Director  
**ACLU of Arkansas**

Jennifer Allen Aroz, Executive Director  
**ACLU of Arizona**

Jane Henegar, Executive Director  
**ACLU of Indiana**

Alanah Odoms, Executive Director  
**ACLU of Louisiana**

Luz María Henríquez, Executive Director  
**ACLU of Missouri**

Tamya Cox-Touré, Executive Director  
**ACLU of Oklahoma**

Encl: Letter from the ACLU of Alabama and other advocates to the U.S. House of  
Representatives Committee on Financial Services, December 17, 2021

Letter from the ACLU of Iowa and other advocates to the Scott County Board of  
Supervisors, February 3, 2022