Petition to Speaker of the House of Representatives regarding Air-Conditioning for Missouri Prisoners

End Cruel and Inhumane Treatment of Missouri Prisoners

Missouri's summers have been getting hotter over the last 40 years, setting new records in the last two years. In 2012 temperatures climbed up to 108 degrees, with an excess of 11 days of over 105 degrees. We were urged to bring in our pets and house plants from the oppressive heat. Those without air conditioning were encouraged to go to cooling centers or other air-conditioned places. But it is Missouri's ugly secret that thousands of prisoners have been locked in sweltering cells with no outlet. Some of the newer Missouri prisons are air-conditioned. Others such as Northeast Correctional Center (NECC) at Bowling Green were designed for A/C, yet it is provided only to staff areas. Prisoners, on the other hand, are treated with less respect than pets or even house plants, with no A/C, no access to ice during night hours, and no access to cool showers. Even the dogs that some prisoners train as a service to the public are provided with fans that are twice as big as the small fans that prisoners must purchase. Conditions are worse in the "hole" where cells have no electrical outlets for fans. During the summer of 2012, one prisoner had a heart attack at NECC. After hospitalization and surgery, he was returned to the prison two days later and housed back in the same overheated cell. We, the people of Missouri, believe these conditions are inhumane, barbaric and reprehensible. Another summer of tortuous conditions for Missouri inmates should not be tolerated! Please use your influence to ensure that Missouri provides air conditioning for all Missouri prisoners.

Name	Address	City, State. Zip

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