



**CONGRESSMAN ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, CHAIRMAN**

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE & RELATED AGENCIES**

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**Opening Statement of Chairman Alan B. Mollohan**  
***Major Challenges Facing Federal Prisons, Part II***

I would like to welcome our witnesses for our second hearing today, Bryan Lowry, the President of AFGE's Council of Prison Locals, and Phil Glover, the National Legislative Director for the Council of Prison Locals. Mr. Lowry will be offering his testimony this afternoon, and both gentlemen will respond to questions from the subcommittee.

Because AFGE members are the correctional officers on the front lines in supervising offenders in our Federal prisons, it is critical that we hear from them about the challenges they face every day. Those challenges are centered on the overcrowding and understaffing issues we discussed during this morning's hearing but are also related to the prisoner reentry focus of this week's hearings.

Managing our prison population is a matter of adequate resources, but it also depends on how we prepare offenders to reenter their home communities so that they do not return to prison in the future. Correctional officers play an important role in ensuring that those reentry efforts are successful.

In a moment, I will ask Mr. Glover to briefly summarize his written testimony. But first I would like to recognize Mr. Wolf for any introductory comments he would like to make.