

I. THE OPEN COVER LETTER

TO: The Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons; The U.S. Department of Justice; and Members of the 119th Congress.

FROM: Ethan Massey ("Ty Speaks Truth"), Formerly Incarcerated Advocate

DATE: March 23, 2026

RE: THE MALIK CARTER ACT – A Demand for National Accountability

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today as a **Formerly Incarcerated Advocate** who has navigated the complexities of the federal system firsthand. I am also a veteran and a legal professional, but it is my lived experience within the walls of our institutions that compels me to speak. The recent loss of **Malik Carter at USP Lee** is a symptom of a systemic failure that I have witnessed personally: the lack of truly independent oversight.

In any other sector of society, we do not allow an organization to investigate its own fatal errors. Yet, in our federal penitentiaries, state prisons, and county jails, we allow the "Blue Wall" to secure the crime scene, manage the evidence, and control the narrative.

This ends now.

The **Malik Carter Act** is a demand for a national standard of independence. We are calling for an immediate end to internal investigations of custodial deaths. Whether a person is in a temporary holding cell or a high-security federal facility, their life has value, and their death deserves an impartial, transparent investigation.

We demand that the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Prisons adopt the "Golden Hour" protocols immediately. We demand that families be given the truth—and the video evidence—within 14 days, not 14 months.

Justice for Malik Carter is about ensuring that no American family ever has to wonder if the "official report" is a cover-up. We are organized, we have the truth on our side, and we will not stop until the Malik Carter Act is the law of the land.

Sincerely,

Ethan Massey *Formerly Incarcerated Advocate* **Contact:** ethantymassey@tyspeakstruth.com

II. THE ONE-PAGER: The Malik Carter Act

A National Standard for Truth and Independence in Custodial Deaths

THE CRISIS

Every year, thousands of individuals die in the custody of American tax-funded facilities. Whether in a local jail, a state prison, or a federal penitentiary like **USP Lee**, the system suffers from a fatal flaw: **The agency responsible for the death is often the agency that investigates it.** This "self-grading" leads to evidence spoliation, a lack of accountability, and families left in the dark for years.

THE MANDATE

The **Malik Carter Act** establishes a uniform federal requirement for all detention settings (Federal, State, County, and Private). It removes investigative authority from the involved facility and places it in the hands of independent experts.

KEY PROVISIONS

- **The 60-Minute "Golden Hour" Rule:** Within one hour of a death, the facility must yield total control of the scene to an independent investigative body (FBI, OIG, or State Police). Facility staff are prohibited from altering the scene or accessing surveillance data.
- **Universal Applicability:** This law applies to **all** custodial environments, including USPs, FCIs, state prisons, county jails, and juvenile detention centers.
- **14-Day Family Transparency:** Mandates the release of all unredacted video and audio evidence to the legal next-of-kin within 14 calendar days.
- **Independent Forensics:** Requires autopsies to be performed by a Medical Examiner with no financial or administrative ties to the facility's jurisdiction.

ENFORCEMENT

- **Federal "Power of the Purse":** States and local municipalities that fail to adopt these independent standards will be ineligible for federal law enforcement grants (Byrne JAG/COPS).
- **Federal Oversight:** Non-compliance at the federal level (BOP) triggers an immediate mandatory audit by the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division.

Contact: Ethan Massey | ethantymassey@tyspeakstruth.com

