

Brandy Moore White – President  
[council33pres@gmail.com](mailto:council33pres@gmail.com)

William Boseman – Vice President WFP  
[wboseman67@gmail.com](mailto:wboseman67@gmail.com)

Steve Markle – Secretary Treasurer  
[Cpl33.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:Cpl33.treasurer@gmail.com)



COUNCIL OF PRISON  
LOCALS 33  
220 CLEVELAND AVE  
FORREST CITY, AR 72335  
OFFICE: 870-633-0508  
FAX: 870-633-0717  
WEBSITE:  
[www.afge.cpl33.org](http://www.afge.cpl33.org)

COUNCIL OF PRISON LOCALS 33  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFL-CIO

**February 25, 2025**

**BUREAU OF PRISONS MAKES SWEEPING DECISION TO CUT RETENTION PAY  
FORMAL STATEMENT FROM THE COUNCIL OF PRISON LOCALS  
BRANDY MOORE WHITE, NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

The Council of Prison Locals is deeply concerned to learn that the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has made the decision to reduce or eliminate retention pay for its staff members. Many of these Federal Law Enforcement staff work tirelessly at understaffed institutions, facing immense challenges every day. The Bureau of Prisons cites budgetary constraints in their decision to take this drastic measure.


This decision comes at a time when the correctional professionals, who ensure the safety and security of our institutions and communities, are facing a staffing crisis and dangerous conditions like never before. Just one example of this are the increased introduction of contraband and unknown substances through drones and the mail system.

This decision will have far-reaching consequences for the dedicated employees who remain in one of the most difficult, high-risk jobs in the country. These professionals work long hours under strenuous conditions, often with inadequate staffing levels. The BOP has relied on retention incentives to help make up for the hardships they face. This has been the only mechanism to recruit and retain individuals over the last year.

These men and women go above and beyond every day to keep our institutions safe. Our members are working in extremely difficult and understaffed conditions. Removing or reducing retention pay is not just a financial blow, it's a blow to morale. This decision is shortsighted and will only exacerbate the staffing crisis, leading to even more turnover, burnout, and instability in addition to additional funding to fill overtime for the vacant positions.

Information on BOP reports continue to highlight the challenges of high turnover rates, dangerous working conditions, and understaffed institutions. Staff members regularly face increased workloads, higher risks of violence, and the pressure of keeping our correctional facilities safe under less-than-ideal circumstances. By removing retention incentives, it creates an environment where more employees will leave for safer or better compensated positions, further expanding the current staffing shortages.

We are calling on Congress to provide funding to the BOP so they can reverse this decision immediately and take meaningful action to support our dedicated staff. Retention pay is not just a financial reward; it is a recognition of the tough, essential work these professionals perform daily. The Council of Prison Locals is committed to working with lawmakers, the public, and BOP leadership to restore retention pay and ensure that correctional officers and staff are provided with the resources and compensation they deserve.

Brandy Moore White  
  
National President  
Council of Prison Locals