



## Council of Prison Locals C-33

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[www.cpl33.info](http://www.cpl33.info)

The Council of Prison Locals, American Federation of Government Employees, represents nearly 30,000 staff members of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. These employees work in very difficult and challenging situations, walking one of the toughest public safety beats in America. We would like to take the opportunity to bring some important issues to your attention that affect this group of sworn Federal Law Enforcement Officers nationwide.

### Please, Consider Co-sponsoring This Bill

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#### H.R. 1175: Oleoresin Capsicum Spray Pilot Program Act of 2011

To establish an Oleoresin Capsicum Spray Pilot Program in the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor: Rep. Dennis Cardoza [D-CA18]**

**The Council of Prison Locals supports this bill:** Correctional employees in the Bureau of Prisons are working in an environment that is becoming more and more dangerous each day. With prison facilities across the country operating at a nationwide average of nearly 40% over rated capacity for inmate population, and high security prisons reaching overcrowding levels of over 50% above capacity, measures to help ensure staff and inmate safety must be taken.

In his recent testimony before Congress, Bureau of Prisons Director, Harley Lapin, stated, "... a one percentage point increase in a facility's inmate population over its rated capacity corresponds with an increase in the prison's annual assault rate... there is a direct relationship between resources (bedspace and staffing) and institution safety."

In a recent report requested by the Washington State Department of Corrections, in the aftermath of a staff murder, the National Institute of Corrections (an agency within the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons) stated "We recommend that all custody staff, be issued a 3-4 ounce OC/pepper spray canister." This report from a component of the USDOJ, Bureau of Prisons supports the efficacy of pepper spray in the hands of staff.

If you have any questions about this issue, please feel free to contact the staff representative who contacted you, or feel free to contact me as well.

Sincerely Yours,

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*"Gain Strength Through Unity"*