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# PRESS RELEASE

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## Attorney General Brown Urges Federal Appeals Court to Uphold States' Authority to Enforce Laws to Protect Public Health

**BALTIMORE, MD (January 12, 2024)** – Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown has joined a coalition of 14 Attorneys General in filing an [amicus brief](#), urging the U.S. Court of Appeals to reverse a lower court's decision preventing enforcement of a state law intended to close private detention facilities to protect the health and safety of immigrants.

In the brief filed in *CoreCivic Inc. v. Murphy*, Attorney General Brown and the coalition urge the Court of Appeals to reverse the lower court's decision, arguing that states should be able to enforce state laws that protect residents' health and safety without interference from the federal government.

"Everyone deserves access to healthy living conditions and quality health care and treatment. That includes immigrants held in detention facilities," said **Attorney General Brown**. "I will continue to fight for these basic human rights that no person should be denied."

New Jersey's Assembly Bill (AB) 5207 was passed to prohibit counties and private corporations from operating facilities that detain individuals for violating civil immigration laws. The bill was passed in August 2021 in response to poor conditions and inadequate medical and mental health care in those facilities. In February 2023, CoreCivic, a private detention company, challenged AB 5207, seeking an exemption to stop the New Jersey governor and Attorney General from enforcing the law. The lower court agreed, stating that CoreCivic is exempt from complying with AB 5207 because it is a federal contractor and finding that closing the facility would significantly interfere with federal operations.

In filing the brief, Attorney General Brown joins the Attorneys General of Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Oregon, and Washington.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2024/011224.pdf>