

Gervais, Pat (LEG)

From: Tim Conley [allconley@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2011 6:07 PM
To: Gervais, Pat (LEG); rlynch@cccscorp.com
Subject: Letter and reports for the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice
Attachments: Letter from Dr Conley.docx; Meth treatment program evaluation_2010.pdf; Multiple_DUI_Study.pdf.pdf; Letter from Dr Conley.doc

Dear Mr. Gervais,

Please accept the attached letter to the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice concerning DOC funding. I am attaching two reports I completed that are cited in the letter. Please inform the committee that I am available for further communication at their pleasure.

I have also asked Ryan Lynch of Butte if he would read the letter to the committee in person.

Respectfully,

Dr. Conley

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To the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice: Steve Gibson, Ryan Zinke, Randy Brodehl, Steve Gallus, Cynthia Hiner, Edward Walker

Regarding: Recent proposed cuts to funding for the Department of Corrections including the WATCH, Nexus and Elkhorn Programs

Dear Senators and Representatives of the committee:

I recently completed program evaluation research reports involving the WATCH, Nexus and Elkhorn programs and advise against cutting state funding for the Department of Corrections; my reports are cited in full below and were forwarded with this letter to Mr. Pagervais.

The opinions of the felony DUI offenders involved in my survey project at WATCH are well documented in the report and testimony I provided to the Law and Justice Interim Committee last winter. To quote the study "This population clearly indicates that treatment is preventative... Their collective opinion indicates that treatment, when adhered to, is the most preventative element." Given the substantial efforts currently underway to solve Montana's DUI problem, it would be counter-effective to cut funding for our state's most powerful rehabilitative element for multiple offenders.

Moreover, Nexus and Elkhorn are fully hitting their stride as maturing, efficient state of the art correctional treatment programs as evidenced by the second quantitative evaluation report I recently submitted to the Department of Corrections. Program completion rates increased significantly, preliminary findings concerning recidivism are exceedingly encouraging and Montana's Native American offenders in particular are benefiting substantially from these programs. All important outcome measures argue against cutting any aspects of these successful operations.

I am available to discuss either of my studies and the rationale for my recommendation against cutting DOC program funding; I may be contacted either by phone or through my e-mail.

Respectfully,

Dr. Conley

Conley, T., Shapiro, S., Spurzem, K., Hardy, S. (2010). Assessing Montana's Multiple Offender Drunk Drivers for Prevention Strategy Ideas; Preliminary Report for the Law and Justice Interim Committee.

<http://www.cor.mt.gov/content/news/MultipleDUIStudy.pdf>

Conley, T. & Spurzem, K., (2010). Evaluation of Montana's Residential Methamphetamine Treatment Programs: Elkhorn Treatment Center for Women Nexus Treatment Center for Men. On file with the Montana Department of Corrections and The University of Montana School of Social Work. June 15, 2010, p. 1-17.