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Law and Justice Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

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October 19, 2021

Dear President Blasdel and Legislative Council members,

Senate Joint Resolution No. 26 (SJ 26) requested an interim committee study the Montana Women's Prison (MWP) and the available programs at the prison. The Legislative Council assigned the study to the Law and Justice Interim Committee (LJIC) along with four other study resolutions.

During the LJIC's June and September meetings, members discussed the SJ 26 study. On September 14, the LJIC members voted to request that this study not be conducted. However, as part of that vote and in lieu of a formal study process, we agreed to invite the Department of Corrections staff to a future meeting to present information related to a strategic planning process they had conducted and to discuss options for the MWP facility and the programs offered to women at the facility.

The LJIC makes this request pursuant to section 5-5-217(3), MCA, that allows an interim committee to recommend to the Legislative Council that a study assigned to the interim committee should not be conducted.

Please contact the LJIC staff or me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Esp".

Senator John Esp, Senior Senator of the Law and Justice Interim Committee

cc

Sen. Diane Sands, sponsor of SJ 26