

January 25, 2023

Joint Subcommittee on Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice – Public Comment for 1/26/23

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Tenney and I am the President of the Montana Community Corrections Association (MCCA). I plan to give public comment in person on 1/26/23, but would like to submit these documents for review, as I will be referencing them in my comments.

MCCA consists of 5 Nonprofit agencies who contract with the Department of Corrections to operate 16 community corrections treatment, assessment, sanction, and prerelease programs across the State. Together, we serve approximately 2000 individuals on a daily basis throughout our residential and non-residential programs with a focus on public safety, successful re-entry, and evidence based treatment practices.

The slides attached to this comment give some pertinent information on our programs, as well as our place in the Correctional system in Montana. We have performed these services and more for over 40 years while effectively reducing recidivism and saving Montana taxpayers millions of dollars with our low per diem rates (approximately 60% of the cost of prison per day on average) and far lower length of stay than prison.

With approximately 1600 individuals housed in our residential programs, MCCA plays a crucial role in keeping Montana's prison population down. That being said, we are more than prepared to expand our services to help address the current prison overcrowding. We have shared our capacity and expansion capabilities with the Department and will be bringing this information on 1/26/23.

We look forward to sharing more information with this Committee and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Amy Tenney, President

Montana Community Corrections Association