

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-02-05 08:00 AM - (H) JAS on Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Indian People's Action

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Written Statement: PLEASE STOP CREATING AND PERPETUATING POVERTY AND CALLING IT JUSTICE! My family has paid that system for the past 11 years for a stupid choice my son made as a teenager. He's 30 - we are STILL PAYING.

The folks coming out of prison are made to pay for EVERYTHING and if you look at the tax forms, Alternative's Inc. makes over \$1.5 MILLION DOLLARS a year OFF OUR POOREST CITIZENS.

Here's a comment from one of my Facebook posts about no justice in Montana - please, please, please stop listening to the crooks in power and talk to people who've had that horrible, nightmarish experience.

As human beings, we have to call things what they are - and what people are calling Justice in Montana is so not justice.

WE have to file complaints against people and agencies - with the very agency that hurt us! nowhere else to go. WE pay and pay and pay and pay. Cops, DA's and judges have unbridled power and folks like me have no recourse but to keep paying What is happening is criminal - but the wrong people are behind bars.

Do we have no principles anymore?

From my post:

Greg Azure

I was a CO at the Shelby prison for about two and a half years for the CCA I worked the fed side and was in training for gang taskforce the CCA is the most corrupt organization I ever worked for they get state and federal funds for each inmate so they kept a list of inmates being released soon no matter petty crimes to mass murder and they really had a group of COs that would fuck with said inmates cause they could have a court right at the prison and keep you up to a year and more for infractions they since let the CCA go and a new company is there a conglomerant like CCA I hear they are better and being watched closely working at that prison and as a Rez deputy sheriff I have never in all my travels met or worked around people more corrupt than law enforcement but did meet good cops but far and in-between it's a money based system so incarceration is a money maker

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Written Statement: Good Morning

My name is Jasmine Krotkov, spelled KROTKOV

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the budget for the Department of corrections.

I speak from the perspective that every budget is a moral document.

The 2017 legislature passed the "justice reinvestment" suite of policy bills which were designed to reduce the cost of corrections over time through pretrial diversion and other treatments and programs that are more effective in creating public safety and are cheaper than incarceration is.

I'm glad to see that the concept of justice reinvestment is validated in this year's Governor's budget:

On page D-48 It says,

Quote "Lower recidivism rates mean less cost overall in the treatment for offenders and ensures a safer community by providing the principles that will change criminal behaviors and make offenders pro social and non-criminal residents. Funding in this change package would allow the department to accomplish these goals." Unquote

What we discovered on the LJIC is that, the "change package" was not adequately funded in either of the last two sessions in order to see results.

What we haven't done is support the mission of the DoC by investing in the programs necessary to support pre-trial diversion and re-integration, like:

- programs for Mental Health
- substance abuse
- homelessness
- education and job training -

There is a lot of lamentation about how the Corrections and Justice budgets just keep getting bigger.

The budget for the DoC is driven by offender populations, so if you want to reduce their budget, the way to do it is to decrease incarceration

We've tried curtailing the DoC budget by contracting out their work.

The Legislative Audit Division identified problems in contract management processes that are costing a lot.

One conclusion of the audit was that "the DoC should collect and analyze more data".

That is not the best answer. I'm all for evidence based and data-driven policies, but data should not be an end in itself.

Another conclusion was that we should be paying more attention to contract enforcement ---

These are examples of more investment in administration -

We don't need more full time employees to collect and process data, and we don't need 20 year contracts with private corrections companies. These unreasonably long contract periods create conditions in which we're paying for beds in rehab programs which go empty.

The best way to save money on corrections is to stop incarcerating so many people

People who need social workers, people who need substance abuse treatment, or mental health care shouldn't be locked up in the most expensive place of all.

Diverting those people from expensive jails and prisons to less expensive programs requires investing in those programs.

I would like to see this committee restrict DoC spending on unnecessary administrative and contracting costs.

The change package identified in the Governor's budget, on the other hand, requires investment.

Thank you so much for your time. I really appreciate you hearing my perspective: every budget is a moral document.