



January 18, 2021

Mr. Chairman Members of the Committee:

The Crossroads facility has been a long standing partner with Montana Department of Corrections and is focused on the mission of the Dept to operate in a safe and secure environment, and to provide evidence based rehabilitative programs and support public policies that will reduce recidivism.

Our Crossroads facility became a partner of the Montana Department of Corrections in response to a competitive RFP that was bid by the Department of Corrections. CoreCivic won the RFP and built the Crossroads Facility in Shelby Montana. The facility began holding inmates in September 1999. Presently, the facility is a 709 bed facility that currently holds up to 613 male Dept. of Correction's inmates and 96 male US Marshall inmates.

With the outbreak of covid-19 CoreCivic activated an emergency operations center to provide real-time support to the company's facilities. The operations center has worked with each facility to implement CDC guidelines, revised policies and procedures to follow best practices, and implemented an education campaign for staff and inmates. The covid-19 operations center has developed a high risk plan for high risk individuals in our care and secured PPE for staff and inmates. Crossroads has worked closely with the corrections department to implement polices preferred by the Montana Dept. of Corrections and has partnered with the local health district for guidance.

While covid-19 has limited access to the education department Crossroads has worked to continue HiSET testing and has offered programs on the housing units. Beginning this week, the education department at the facility will begin returning inmates to the classroom and religious services will also begin to be offered again, to include pipe ceremonies. This will all be offered based on CDC guidelines and in a socially distanced manner.

Crossroads has recently brought on-line a tablet program that is available for the inmates and will allow for access to programs, grievances, law library access, video visitation and other services. Per the contract Crossroads uses the same vendor at the Dept. of Corrections and provides similar access to services, and rates as the Department.

Corrections is a difficult and challenging issue. I appreciate your willingness to dive into the issue. As Crossroads continues to remain focused on its mission with the Montana Department of Corrections to provide a robust rehabilitative programs, operate in a safe and secure manner, and meet the daily requirements of the contract we would request to be treated equitably as the other contracted partners and receive a 3% increase to the daily rate for each year of the biennium. Thank you for your time and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Andrea Evans
Sr. Director, CoreCivic

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-21 08:00 AM - (H) JAS on Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Mayson Simmons

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City, State: Polson

Written Statement: I believe the numbers from yesterday on salaries are not being compared correctly to the county prosecutors. I have to wonder why OPD isn't mentoring more law students. They should also be using the social workers interns. Those interns have to fill a mandatory amount of field time to get their individual licenses. Having worked with those interns I know they struggle to find places to fulfill their requirements.

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-21 08:00 AM - (H) JAS on Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Michael Johnson

Email: standingfirm47@gmail.com

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City, State: Helena

Written Statement: I Michael Johnson, would like to advocate for trauma informed treatment for Montana's incarcerated populations. I am a former lieutenant for Montana DOC. I worked the trauma informed treatment program at Riverside Correctional Facility in Boulder MT. I experienced firsthand, the successful effects of trauma treatment in reducing recidivism, overcoming addictions and the overall healing of the incarcerated population, allowing them to reenter back into the communities successfully. The subject matter requires ample time to review so I recently published a book with my co-author Rhonda Champagne who was the trauma therapist in the program. In the book we cover the many challenges in implementing a trauma treatment culture while at the same time managing prison policies and procedures. Mixing these two cultures (treatment and security) is no easy task and requires legislative action to do it appropriately and correctly.

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Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Rhonda Champagne

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Phone: (406) 459-2021

City, State: Helena

Written Statement: I, Rhonda Champagne, am a licensed clinical social worker. I was hired by DOC to implement a trauma-informed program at the Riverside facility in Boulder, MT. I learned a lot about what it takes to do this successfully. I co-authored a book with former Lieutenant Michael Johnson, 'Correcting Treatment in Corrections' to specifically outline the many challenges that will be met if trying to implement trauma treatment in a secure facility. I have working experience, success and information that I believe will be useful.

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-20 08:00 AM - (H) JAS on Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

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City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: D.O.C Is trying to show this committee who is BOSS.

They are trying to cut budget on the things that are needed the most. D.O.C Directors budget should not be cut, he needs to have funds to make sure all of D.O.C's departments are doing what they are supposed to be doing.