



## Central Office

1450 Energy Park Drive Suite 200 • St. Paul MN, 55108  
PH 651.361.7200 • Fax 651-642-0223 • TTY 800.627.3529  
[www.doc.state.mn.us](http://www.doc.state.mn.us)

April 10, 2017

Senator Limmer  
Assistant Majority Leader  
3221 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Tony Cornish  
369 State Office Building  
125 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Honorable Senator Limmer and Honorable Representative Cornish,

Thank you for your diligent work on this session's public safety omnibus bill. The many hours of hearings, discussions and debate have yielded the framework for a final bill that will enhance public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. However, I would not be doing my job if I did not inform you of concerns the department has regarding your budget cuts.

There are several items in each bill that are troublesome, but the underfunding of the compensation request is the most concerning. The DOC will need to lay off staff without the Governor's request of \$47.6 million for compensation. DOC employees play a critical role in improving public safety for Minnesotans and they need to be paid according to their contracts. The Senate funding level of only \$6.812 million, is \$41 million less than the Governor. The House bill at \$16 million is \$30 million less.

The DOC also has other requests in the Governor's proposal that without funding will mean cuts in the base, leaving many recidivism reducing programs vulnerable to being reduced or eliminated.

The department must have the following Governor's requests:

- Compensation contracted obligations at Governor's level \$47.6 million
- Health care contract FY17 \$9.2 million and FY18-19 \$22.4 million
- Technology modernization and paying for MNIT rates \$9.9 million
  - \$3 million for staffing need
  - \$6.9 million for rates to MNIT
- Prison Rape Elimination Act \$2 million
- Utilities, food and lease inflation \$4.9 million
- Operating costs for MCF-St. Cloud and MCF-Shakopee expansions \$524,000
- Community supervision and sex offender treatment at \$10 million
  - DOC – \$2.080 million

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

- CCA – \$4.410 million
- CPO – \$484,000
- SO treatment - \$744,000
- Mental health at \$3.150 million
- Restrictive housing at \$3.7 million
- Security staffing and upgrades at \$6 million
- Medical and nursing services \$2 million
- Offender case management staff \$3.456 million
- No supplanting with MINNCOR funding

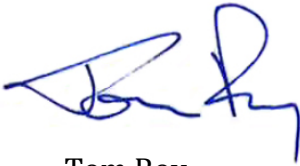
The House omnibus bill includes a number of very problematic language items, but Article 2, section 2 regarding the purchasing, leasing or operating of Prairie Correctional Facility is the most concerning. I have testified and provided solutions to the departments capacity issues. The request for an additional 75 Challenge Incarceration Program beds at MCF-Willow River and MCF-Togo, and the remodeling of a vacant building at MCF-Lino Lakes -adding 60 beds - are solutions proven to reduce recidivism and provide a return on taxpayer investment. Using current prison locations for small additions is a much more cost effective approach than purchasing a large abandoned property.

Paying for public safety is the most solemn responsibility that any public servant can assume. Cuts of this magnitude will severely impact the DOC's ability to protect the public as mandated by the Minnesota Constitution. ***"ARTICLE I, Section 1. OBJECT OF GOVERNMENT. Government is instituted for the security, benefit and protection of the people..."***

I know we can work together toward developing a budget that protects both the personal safety of our citizens and the financial security of our great state.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Tom Roy  
Commissioner

CC: SF803 Conference Committee Members  
Senator Gazelka  
Representative Daudt