



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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MEMBER
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LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy
Governor, State of Connecticut
Capitol Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Dear Governor Malloy,

I am writing to you today to express my strong opposition to any contemplated layoffs of corrections employees. As a legislator who represents a town with three prisons, I cannot justify to my constituents that a reduction in public safety is warranted or responsible.

I fully appreciate the magnitude of the budget crisis that you inherited, and I was proud to support the budget proposed last week as the best means available to address the budget situation. However, as the situation continues to change through economic forecasting and negotiations with state employee labor unions, I am compelled to impress upon you the urgency of preserving public safety.

Connecticut's front line correctional staff provides an invaluable service, and the state has an obligation to ensure the safety of those men and women who work to preserve order and safety in correctional institutions. Reducing that workforce will only put correctional officers and the general public at greater risk, as was seen in the 1980s and the early 1990s prison riots in Enfield. With so many homes near the prisons, it is of paramount importance that the public be protected.

Your initial budget proposal to the General Assembly was a well reasoned and carefully considered framework that would solve the fiscal problems inherited by your administration. Maintaining municipal aid, PILOT funding and Education Cost Sharing

are critically important, and I was proud to support those ideals. I would posit to you that public safety concerns must also be among our top priorities as we move forward together to fix an unbelievable budgetary mess.

I have every confidence that the General Assembly will work closely and cooperatively with you to put Connecticut on the right track, and I look forward to helping achieve our shared goals for the state in whatever way I can.

Respectfully,



David W. Kiner

State Representative, Enfield

Cc: Christopher G. Donovan, Speaker of the House
Brendan Sharkey, Majority Leader