

PENNSYLVANIA STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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· · · Patrolling the Toughest Blocks in the State · · · www.pscoa.org

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Roy Pinto, Vice President Percy Poindexter, Vice President

Sam Brezler, Secretary/Treasurer

Testimony Provided by Donald G. McNany President, Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association

Senate Government Management and Cost Study Commission Senator David Argall, Chairman

May 3, 2010

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and members. My name is Don McNany, President of the Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association. With me today is Percy Poindexter, PSCOA Western Region Vice President.

On behalf of the PSCOA and our more than 10,000 members, I want to thank you for your leadership and service to the people of Pennsylvania. Let me also thank you for allowing us to meet with you today.

In January of 2009, we met with the Office of Administration and provided them with many of the same issues we present today. In response to our presentation, a spokesman for the Governor stated "Requiring prisoners to pay for toilet paper isn't high on Rendell's priority list as he grapples with the deficit". "The yield from their suggestions would produce little money, while at the same time agitating the prison population; it seems that little good would come from it".



At this time, I would like to go over our 'Cost Saving Measures" and answer any questions you may have.



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COST SAVING MEASURES:

- 1. Suspend free postage for inmates. Postage paid envelopes cam be purchased in the Commissary. Currently inmates receive 10 free envelopes.
 - 51,457 inmates X \$4.40= \$226,410.80 per month. This is postage only and does not include the cost of the envelopes. Currently, inmates can purchase postage paid envelopes from the Commissary. Also, the majority of inmates mailing legal documents use a cash slip to deduct the cost of postage from their account.
- 2. Increase inmate medical fees (\$5.00) for sick call visits, injury visits and medications.
- 3. Charge inmates for initial issue of clothing and for any replacements.
- 4. Discontinue the practice of free soap and toilet paper to inmates. Soap can be purchased in the commissary and toilet paper could be added.
- 5. Reduce costs of feeding inmates by limiting breakfast to toast and cereal or eggs. Lunch could be soup and sandwich. Dinner would be the big meal of the day. Initiate a meal charge for inmates (\$5.00 per month) 51,457 inmates X\$5.00 per month = \$257,285.00 per month.

- 6. Increase prices of Commissary items to the prevailing area prices. All or a portion of the profit goes into the Institutions operating budget vs. the IGWF.
- 7. Allow staff to bring in their own meals, subject to security measures. Especially for H-1 members as they can't leave the institution for meals.
- 8. Allow H-1 access to the SAP/ESS system for pay purposes, etc. This would eliminate mailing pay statements. 10,899 members \times \$.44= \$4,795.56 per pay period or \$9,591.12 per month.

By implementing items 1, 5 and 8, the Commonwealth would gain \$493,286.92 per month.