

Chairs Sollman and Evans, members of the committee,

Because of the lack of proper staffing, correctional officers at my facility have two options. You can work 16 hours of back-to-back mandatory overtime shifts a week or you have to come in every day early – 12 hours per day, four days per week.

To state the obvious, you are tired, unmotivated to go above and beyond, and way less alert. This puts inmates, staff, and the public at risk. It makes it hard to keep your cool during stressful situations. You are constantly asked to do more with less.

You spend less time at home. Leaving your spouse (if you have one) to cover everything else to include children and responsibilities. You never can spend time getting anything done in your personal life. You are forced to call in sick to handle home business. Divorce rates are climbing.

Everyone is tired and quick-tempered. You spend your days off worrying about how you are going to deal with the mandates.

It's not enough to complain. There has to be solutions. We need to attract and retain people. Money and benefits need to improve. Higher quality people will show up and stay with better benefits. We can't keep ignoring the obvious answer, which is to hire more staff. Our current staff can't keep carrying the load with mandatory overtime.

Karl Moody

Department of Corrections