

Chairs Sollman and Evans and members of the committee,

Because of the staffing crisis that we have been facing at my facility for years, I work mandatory overtime about four times a month. It creates a large amount of fatigue and wear on my body. It has really impacted my physical health. According to my doctor, I now have high blood pressure. I also get frequent headaches and stomach issues, and I've gained weight as well. The lack of sleep makes it really hard to observe what's happening around me, and I don't feel like I'm able to keep everyone around me safe.

I had to change shifts because of it. Depending on the week, my family never gets to see me. I have thought about changing careers. I have been in corrections for 12 years and have always thought that if overtime wasn't as bad, I would actually like coming to work.

We absolutely must find a balance. If you take care of your employees first, they will do a better job and the whole facility improves. When staff are in a better mood, they're more aware and more invested in their jobs. And that means that we have a safer prison and a more enjoyable place to work. In order to take care of employees, we need to hire more staff. Please give us the funding we need to do that.

Matthew Brown

Oregon Department of Corrections