

Dear Chairs Sollman and Evans, and members of the committee

I am a corrections officer at Two Rivers Correctional Institution, and I have to work mandatory overtime 2 or more times per week because we have had a staffing shortage for many years.

I feel like being physically and mentally exhausted is a threat to safety and security of myself and others in this environment which is filled with potential hazards.

My health is impacted because I have an unpredictable sleeping and eating schedule. I'm a parent, and I do not have enough time to raise my child, let alone have a social life with friends and family. It feels depressing and isolating.

I can't refuse mandatory overtime for fear of losing my job, but then I am not able to prioritize my health and well-being. For the four years I have worked here, I have tried to live with the forced overtime. I even sacrifice my own time to attempt to help others who are also suffering, but it takes a huge toll on my life.

For the last four years, we have been told it will get better, but it has only gotten worse. Staff are leaving, or getting injured or sick for long periods of time, and nothing is being done to relieve the mandatory overtime.

We need your help. We need more staff to give us some relief and allow us to live our lives again. Please give us the funding we need for more staff.

Jasmine Bush

Two Rivers Correctional Facility