

Chairs Sollman and Evans, and members of the committee,

I have been a correctional officer at Coffee Creek for many years. Our staff is in crisis. We don't have enough people to cover all shifts, so we have to work mandatory overtime week after week. It's too hard for me to work 16 hours a day, so instead of having to quit my job, I found a split buddy and I have worked 2:00am to 2:00pm most days and my weekends. This past December I worked 146 hours of overtime. If I miss a day or two I will get "hit" and be forced to stay.

Most of us at Coffee Creek are walking zombies. We can't perform our job duties to the best of our ability because we're way too tired. The morale is very low. I hate seeing it like this, because when I first started here, we used to have a more upbeat, positive work force.

I've had no home life these past few years. I'm retiring in April, so the end is in sight for me, but up until now it's been really awful. I have to run home from work to make it to a holiday dinner, only to have to leave before everyone else so I can get to bed and sleep in preparation for more overtime. This has been my life and I'm sick of it. *No one* should be expected to work like this.

I've seen so many divorces because of the strain of this job and no family should have to go through that. When I look into my granddaughters eyes and have to tell her time and time again that I can't spend time with her because of having to work, it just about kills me. Everyone suffers. I've missed out on so much, and no job should take these things away from you.

Things have to change! Working like this is not normal. Please give us the funding we need to hire more staff and get our lives back!

Barbara Corum

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility