

Oklahoma Board of Corrections
RESOLUTION
To
The Oklahoma Legislature,
The Governor of Oklahoma, and the
Citizens of the State of Oklahoma

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is a diverse and complex statewide operation consisting of: (1) 17 minimum through maximum security correctional facilities; (2) 22 community corrections level facilities, all that that function 24 hours a day, seven days a week; (3) statewide probation and parole functions including probation and parole districts and community sentencing programs; (4) a statewide Correctional Manufacturing and Agri-Services Division that generates food provisions; a revenue-generating manufacturing and service operation; (5) a sizeable offender educational program; (6) medical and mental health services for the individuals in the custody of the department; (6) comprehensive administrative support functions for the department; (7) as well as administration of private prison contracts, and (8) responsible for more than 57,000 offenders; (8) a workforce of 4,600 employees (5844.60 authorized FTE); and total fiscal responsibility of over \$409 million.

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections has been under funded during each regular legislative session, and was forced to operate, knowing that supplemental requests will be required for eight (8) of the past ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, deficit funding, and speculative supplemental funding promotes operational inefficiencies, resulting in an inability to plan for proper staffing and operational needs; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections risks Federal court control and oversight because of past funding shortfalls and the effects of the same; and

WHEREAS, the American Correctional Association reports that Oklahoma continues to maintain correctionally inappropriate staffing levels due to funding and salary deficiencies, resulting in difficulty with recruitment and retention; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the inability to recruit and retain staff presents significant risks to the inmate population, to the staff, and to public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is consistently burdened with unfunded mandates from all branches of government; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is expected to provide effective programs and positive, measurable outcomes for persons not receiving such services from other governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma correctional leaders are not compensated equitably in comparison to other state agencies and markets, making the position of Director and other agency leaders difficult to qualify, recruit, and retain; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections funding level has been so deficient that it causes the decay and condemnation of physical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections inmate population ranks among the highest in the United States, and has risen every year without adequate funding and/or legislation to reduce Oklahoma's high incarceration rate:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Oklahoma Board of Corrections encourages the Oklahoma Legislature and Governor of the State of Oklahoma to immediately approve adequate funding during the 2005 Special Session of the Oklahoma Legislature to:

- Ensure adequate staffing levels are maintained at facilities and in the community
- To have the ability to adequately recruit and retain staff at all levels
- To provide programs and services, including health care, to the inmate population
- To provide for upgrades to facility infrastructure needs

ADOPTED this 19th day of July, 2005.

All signatures are on file.

Robert Rainey, Chairman

Mark. W. Luttrull, Vice Chairman

Ernest Godlove, Secretary

David C. Henneke, Member

Ted Logan, Member

Earnest Ware, Member

Beverly Young, Member