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April 18, 2013

Roxane White, Chief of Staff
Governor's Office
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ms White,

In preparation for the careful consideration that the Joint Budget Committee must give to the results of the prison utilization study required by H.B. 12-1336, the Committee requests that the prison utilization study team present a summary of its findings to the JBC on June 20, 2013.

The Committee also requests that the Department of Corrections (DOC) submit its interim supplemental budget request for funding of the Department's Sex Offender Treatment and Management Program by June 3, 2013.

In addition, the JBC requests that the Department's June budget request include an evaluation of the feasibility of placing sex offenders at the Cheyenne Mountain Reentry Center (CMRC) in Colorado Springs, which is operated by Community Education Centers (CEC). The Committee believes that CMRC offers important potential advantages as a treatment and maintenance site:

- The urban location will make it easier to hire sex-offender therapists, either as employees or as contractors.
- The CEC community corrections center that is located next to CMRC could also operate sex offender treatment and maintenance programs, possibly using staff that also work at CMRC. Properly structured, the result would be a continuum of care for sex offenders as they transition to the community.
- CMRC's reentry program will help prepare sex offenders for parole or for placement in community corrections programs. Participation in CMRC's "Right Living Right Now" program, which assigns specific jobs and responsibilities to inmates, may also enhance a sex offender's chances of being granted parole or being accepted by a community corrections board.

The Committee specifically requests that the Department evaluate:

- Whether CMRC could be used for sex-offender assessment;
- Whether CMRC could be used for sex-offender treatment; and
- Whether CMRC could operate a maintenance program for sex offenders who have completed therapy but have not yet been paroled or placed in community corrections.

The Committee asks that the Department consult with Community Education Centers while conducting this feasibility study. Collaboration may generate ideas that would not otherwise come to light.

Assuming a sex-offender program at CMRC is feasible, the Committee asks the Department to consider:

- Whether CMRC should operate a DOC-designed Sex Offender Treatment program or a CEC-designed program that is compatible with the DOC model;
- Whether the clinician-trainer that DOC will hire to train, coach, and mentor therapists in its internal Sex Offender Treatment Program should also train, coach, and mentor therapists at CMRC;
- Whether any change to Section 17-1-206.5, C.R.S., the statute that governs CMRC, may be necessary;
- Whether increased payments to Community Education Centers are advisable in light of the extra services CMRC would provide; and
- When a sex offender program at CMRC should begin.

The Committee believes that this evaluation will help inform the decisions that must be made regarding the best use of private and public prison beds following completion of the prison utilization study.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Senator Pat Steadman, Chair
Joint Budget Committee

cc: Mr. John Ziegler, Staff Director, Joint Budget Committee
Mr. Henry Sobanet, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Mr. Karl Spiecker, Director of Finance and Administration, Department of Corrections
Ms. Wayne Peel, Budget Director, Department of Corrections