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Senate of Pennsylvania
25TH DISTRICT
SENATOR CRIS DUSH

COMMITTEES

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23 April 2025

The Honorable Dr. Laurel R Harry
PA Department of Corrections
1920 Technology Parkway
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17050

Secretary Harry:

I am writing to express concern about the decision to close SCI Rockview and Quehanna Boot Camp.

I was told that there is crucial work that needs done at SCI Rockview including roof work, boiler replacements, and paving work. This was information that I took at face value. Then, last week, I was shocked whenever I visited SCI Rockview and stood on asphalt less than a year old. I then saw that the roofs were partially done and what isn't done is under contract. I also saw the boilers, and one of them was finished, whilst the other was either under contract or finished. The fences are also new.

These revelations made me question the legitimacy of the steering committee's findings. As the Senator who represents Bellefonte and as the Chairman of the State Government Committee which has oversight of the disposition of properties through DGS it is my obligation to ensure that the steering committee's findings were based on accurate and current information. The empirical evidence that conflicts with the Department's stated needs leads me, and many others, to believe that is not the case. As I told you in the hearing, I no longer have the luxury of believing your Department's assertions.

The closure of these institutions would have far reaching economic impacts, and a closure based on incorrect or incomplete information would be a purposeless blow to the region.

Please provide me and the Senate State Government Committee with the following

- The names of the members of the Steering Committee
- Each of the criteria that were considered when determining which institutions to close
- Documents that demonstrate how the criteria was applied to each of the Department's institutions and how each one was scored

- Any other documents that were provided to the steering committee relating to each of the Department's institutions
- Any correspondences between or among steering committee members and the administration relating to the work of the steering committee
- Copies of any and all communications and/or notes from the Governor's office and/or the Department of Corrections relative to the evaluation of facilities, work of the steering committee, and the selection of SCI Rockview and Quehenna Boot Camp for closure.

I would appreciate a response by close of business on May 2, 2025. Absent such response, I will be considering a State Government Committee hearing for the purpose of issuing a subpoena for the information during the Session week of May 5th, 2025.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cris Dush", with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Senator Cris Dush
25th Senatorial District