

Dear Legislator:

The California Department of Corrections currently spends \$1.1 billion (of its \$6 billion annual budget) on healthcare for inmates.

Yet, according to the Little Hoover Commission and a court-appointed panel of experts, healthcare in California prisons "demonstrate multiple instances of incompetence, indifference, cruelty and neglect."

Experts found that overall compliance with Plata vs. Davis (2001 class action lawsuit regarding healthcare in all California prisons) is "non-existent."

The 10 deaths in a 3 year period at San Quentin were reviewed. What about the 11 deaths in 1 year at the Central California Women's Facility (CCWF)?

Don Spector of the Prison Law Office says, "The medical care is so bad that more inmates are dying from medical neglect than are dying from violence." Senator Gloria Romero concluded that "at least 30 inmates have died from preventable causes".

And if this is not enough to inflame you—what about the future cost to taxpayers in terms of medical lawsuits. What percent of the \$1.1 billion spent on inmate healthcare annually has already been diverted to settling lawsuits? What about the future social cost in terms of communicable diseases spread from inside the prison to the community at large?

Reform the prison system, reduce the-prison population, take action now.

Sincerely,