

FROM: Undersigned Organizations

TO: Governor Neil Abercrombie
Governor Mike Beebe
Governor Robert Bentley
Governor Steven L. Beshear
Governor Terry Branstad
Governor Jan Brewer
Governor Jerry Brown
Governor Sam Brownback
Governor Phil Bryant
Governor Lincoln Chafee
Governor Chris Christie
Governor Tom Corbett
Governor Andrew Cuomo
Governor Jack Dalrymple
Governor Mitch Daniels
Governor Dennis Daugaard
Governor Mark Dayton
Governor Nathan Deal
Governor Mary Fallin
Governor Chris Gregoire
Governor Nikki R. Haley
Governor Bill Haslam
Governor Dave Heineman
Governor Gary R. Herbert
Governor John Hickenlooper

Governor Bobby Jindal
Governor John Kasich
Governor John Kitzhaber
Governor Paul LePage
Governor John Lynch
Governor Dan Malloy
Governor Jack Markell

Moreover, the requirement to keep a large prison 90% full for twenty years would pose an obstacle to more serious criminal justice reform. The United States imprisons far more people – both per capita and in absolute terms – than any other nation in the world, including Russia,

- In October 2011, prisoner fights in several locations throughout a CCA prison in Oklahoma left 46 prisoners injured and required 16 inmates to be sent to the hospital, some of them in critical condition.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In 2010, the corporation entered into a confidential settlement agreement with a woman who was held hostage for three hours after a CCA inmate sent to an Ohio hospital overpowered guards and escaped. The victim stated that she had been “plagued by anxiety, nightmares, sleeping problems, and a fear of being alone since the incident.” The escapee also stole a gun and a uniform from the guards and robbed a bank while on the run.^{iv}
- In September 2011, Donald Dunn, a CCA employee responsible for transporting immigration detainees, pleaded guilty, according to a Department of Justice press release, to two federal deprivation of rights charges: “While transporting the females between the correctional center and either Austin Bergstrom International Airport or the Greyhound Bus Terminal in Austin, Dunn admittedly would stop the vehicle, order the females to exit the vehicle, then mislead each of the victims to believe that he was conducting a legitimate search of their bodies, when in fact, the defendant touched the victims in a sexual manner and for the purposes of self gratification.”^v Dunn earlier pled guilty to state charges of official oppression and unlawful restraint in connection with the sexual abuse of five immigration detainees.^{vi}
- In 2009, State of Hawaii investigators sent to Otter Creek Correctional Center, a CCA prison for women in Kentucky that held Hawaii prisoners, found, according to a news report, that “at least five corrections officials at the prison, including a chaplain, had been charged with [engaging in sexual intercourse] with inmates in the last three years, and four were convicted.”^{vii} Both Hawaii and Kentucky later removed inmates from the facility.^{viii}

Selling off prisons to CCA would be a tragic mistake for your state. Mr. Lappin’s proposal is an invitation to fiscal irresponsibility, prisoner abuse, and decreased public safety. It should promptly be declined.

Sincerely,

AdvoCare, Inc.

American Civil Liberties Union – National Prison Project

American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

Center on Policy Initiatives

Communications Workers of America

Detention Watch Network

Enlance

Grassroots Leadership

Human Rights Defense Center

In The Public Interest

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

International CURE

Justice Policy Institute

Justice Strategies

Marijuana Policy Project

NAACP

National Employment Law Project

Private Corrections Institute

Private Corrections Working Group

The Sentencing Project

Service Employees International Union

Southern Center for Human Rights

Southern Poverty Law Center

Southern Region, Workers United, Service Employees International Union

Youth Transformation Center

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

ⁱ CORRECTIONS CORPORATION OF AMERICA, 2010 ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K 19 (2010).

ⁱⁱ HARLEY G. LAPPIN ET AL., FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS, EVALUATION OF THE TAFT DEMONSTRATION P