

From: [Seanna Beisner](#)
To: [Interim Finance Committee](#)
Subject: WSCC Closure/NDOC Funding
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Dear Interim Finance Committee,
Thank you for taking the time to read this.

As hard as it is to say, the safety of the officers and offenders has been a low priority for quite some time at the DOC. I have seen a lot in my life and my perception of what has been happening in the last 4 years has been one band aid after another in a hopeless race to make us LOOK better politically. There has been approximately \$450,000 spent to renovate units and to meet ADA compliant standards institutionally just to close this institution. This latest closure appears to be yet another band aid for a larger problem with zero consideration for officer safety and strategically designed to (once again) make us LOOK good. We have not been able to find staff, and we have not been able to retain staff for years due to non-competitive pay and reduced benefits. Instead of offering any kind of incentive for C/Os, be it a pay raise, bonuses or even just giving back the furlough pay we were told about last year we are shutting down an institution. Our last substantial raise was back in 2004 (which is well before my time) when they were issued a 15% raise. Every Cost of Living raise we have gotten since then has been met with higher insurance premiums and higher PERS contributions, which means almost no raise at all.

Closing an institution sounds like a great way to manage things RIGHT NOW, and I'm sure the numbers look good on paper, but what is not being seen is the past mismanagement of funds, the long term financial effect, the mothers, fathers, daughters, sons and grandparents whose work family is being separated, and the programming offenders that are being scattered to various institutions that are unable to support the programs they are participating in. 6 months ago WSCC put in a budget request for \$125,000 to fix failing boilers. This request was ignored until this became an emergency situation, now the state is paying \$1000 a day to keep diesel fuel in the \$35,000 a month rented heaters in the activities building. The Activities building chiller has been broken for 3 years now as well, when it was first submitted we were given a quote for \$84,000 to replace it. Instead the DOC has spent a total of approximately \$73,000 renting a chiller every summer. The band aids are not made to last, and our administration appears to have set us on a path that leads to being in this same position five years from now with no prisons left to close. If we explore just 10 years ago in NDOC history, Nevada State Prison was closed with the same cost saving promises that we are being given now. 2 years later when legislature reconvened the cost savings were nowhere near the millions of dollars projected. There is no difference in the current promises, just an easy and obvious band aid that will no doubt end the same way.

In summary the Department of Corrections will temporarily look good if they pull staff from one institution and combine them with another, but as long as they focus on surface issues, mismanage funds and ignore root problems, the DOC will not be able to land on it's feet and be the exceptional department it could be. Looks aren't everything. Thank you again and have a wonderful day.

Seanna Beisner
Correctional Officer
Warm Springs Correctional Center
3301 E. 5th Street
Carson City, NV. 89702
