



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Corrections

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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February 23, 2026

The Honorable Sara Hannan
Chair, House Corrections Finance Subcommittee
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Sent via email: Representative.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov

Dear Chair Hannan,

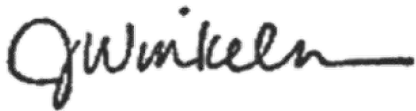
This letter serves as the Department of Corrections' (DOC) written response to questions asked during the House Corrections Finance Subcommittee hearing on February 12, 2026.

- *The Committee asked for the number of inmates to the number of officers and provide the difference between a high security and a lower security facility.*
 - The Division of Institutions currently has 1,055 PCNs allocated for Correctional Officers, ranging from Correctional Officer 1 to Correctional Supervisors, within our facilities. With a current maximum capacity of 4,988 prisoners in the 13 facilities statewide, the overall average ratio is 1 Correctional Officer to 4.73 prisoners. To illustrate varying staffing ratios at individual facilities based on security levels and prisoner classifications, a handful of examples are provided below:
 - Anchorage Correctional Complex, a booking facility capable of housing minimum/medium/close prisoners, has a ratio of 1 Correctional Officer to 4.62 prisoners.
 - Spring Creek Correctional Center, a maximum-security facility, has a ratio of 1 Correctional Officer to 4.3 prisoners.
 - Palmer Correctional Center, a sentenced minimum/medium security facility, has a ratio of 1 Correctional Officer to 6.83 prisoners.

- Pt. Mackenzie Correctional Farm, a minimum working farm, has a ratio of 1 Correctional Officer to 8.53 prisoners.
- *The Committee asked if suicide was reduced by 20% in calendar year 2025? They would like to see a number, not a percentage.*
 - These numbers are available in the 'News Room; About Our Inmates' on the Department of Correction's webpage; or by following [this link](#).
- *The Committee asked if there is any literature available to get a better understanding of the challenges in recruiting officers.*
 - [Recruitment and retention of correctional staff](#)
 - [The State of Police Recruitment and Retention - Lexipol](#)
 - [Why jails and prisons can't recruit their way out of the understaffing crisis | Prison Policy Initiative](#)
 - [Prisons Across Country Face Challenge Of Finding Workers](#)
- *The Committee asked for the final report and recommendation from the assessment completed utilizing the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC).*
 - Please see the attached Project 2025: A Suicide Prevention Initiative report by the Department of Corrections

Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Corrections.

Sincerely,



Jen Winkelman

Commissioner

Department of Corrections