



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

September 5, 2017

Secretary Jon Litscher  
Department of Corrections  
3099 E. Washington Ave.  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Litscher:

We were shocked and extremely frustrated to learn this morning that your department recently demanded \$39,000 in repayments from employees due to its own payroll errors. As legislators representing Columbia Correctional Institution and many hardworking DOC staff, we strongly urge you to stop this action immediately.

It is no secret that DOC has struggled in recent years with attracting and retaining employees, as well as plummeting morale among staff. We have spent time listening to our constituents who work in our correctional institutions. We can assure you that forcing them to pay back wages that they worked for and were promised will only make matters worse. These individuals helped our correctional institutions when we could barely keep the doors open. Asking them to rescue the Department from its own mistakes is no way to thank them for their service.

If employees were hired and agreed to work for a particular rate of pay which they were paid, asking them to return that pay is unconscionable and likely illegal. We should not force individuals that helped our correctional institutions when we needed them most to sue us just to get paid what we promised them. We realize DOC badly needs funding, but this is unfair and insulting. Please do not ask this of your own employees.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Dave Considine  
State Representative  
81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Jon Erpenbach  
State Senator  
27<sup>th</sup> Senate District