



# TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 117

*Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters*

General Public and Private Sector Employees and Special Services Employees in King and Pierce Counties and Employees of the State of Washington

March 31, 2022

Ms. Cheryl Strange, Secretary  
Department of Corrections  
PO Box 41104, Mail Stop 41101  
Olympia WA 98504-1101

**Via Email Transmittal**  
**Cheryl.Strange@doc1.wa.gov**  
**Hard Copy to Follow**

Dear Secretary Strange:

On Wednesday, March 16, 2022, Teamsters Local 117 members working at the Washington State Department of Corrections met with you and your leadership team to deliver a petition signed by almost 1,300 members demanding action regarding their safety concerns. In addition, over 130 members sent that same team detailed emails expressing serious concerns about their safety at work. During that meeting, corrections staff shared personal stories with you, outlining the need for immediate action to ensure your staff's health and well-being. We are disappointed to have received no formal response or requests for follow up conversations to work to solve these issues. The lack of response raises great concern about taking these problems seriously. As a reminder, the demands of our members are straightforward:

1. Limit the number of mandatory overtime hours to no more than 10 hours per week;
2. Provide every member with 80 hours of emergency leave;
3. Follow DOC policies, procedures, and best practices as established;
4. Provide appropriate staffing for the tasks being conducted;
5. Provide employer paid time for quarantine, testing, and isolation;
6. Provide appropriate PPE as established by DOC guidelines;
7. Provide training to all staff;
8. Establish a program with resources for employees who experienced trauma as a result of 2-plus years working through the pandemic; and
9. Establish a statewide committee in coordination with the Union to address systemic safety issues across your organization.

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You have failed your staff at this moment. Our members described a level of exhaustion and systemic safety issues to you that are dangerous for both staff and incarcerated individuals, and it is your responsibility to respond and correct those issues as quickly as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you soon regarding your plan of action and the immediate next steps the Department is taking.

Sincerely,



Michelle Woodrow  
President & Executive Director

LW:ms

cc: **Department of Corrections:**

Sean Murphy, Deputy Secretary  
Julie Martin, Chief of Staff  
Danielle Armbruster, Assistant Secretary  
David Flynn, Assistant Secretary  
Jeanne Darneille, Assistant Secretary  
Jeannie Miller, Assistant Secretary  
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