

SMART ACT Hearing

JOINT JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 21, 2026



LI-REPRESENTATIVES

Rhidale Dotson
and
Waylon James Robitaille

Presenting from Fremont Correctional Facility



Three Desired Outcomes

- ◆ That our contributions help to eliminate blind spots & prove valuable to crucial decisions—today and in the future
- ◆ Improve understanding of impacts and lived experiences resulting from current and past policy decisions regarding capacity
- ◆ Oversight & Follow-up from the General Assembly on key policy initiatives for success of incarcerated people & taxpayer savings

SHINING A LIGHT ON

- Parole Bottle necking
- Incarcerated Women's Issues
- Increasing DOC Transparency & Accountability

MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH

- Classification
- Risk Assessment
- Case Management

MOST PRESSING ISSUE OF THE DAY



Prison Capacity Problem

Colorado Prison Population is Increasing

**“When admissions exceed releases, the prison population increases.”
‘JUSTIN BRAKKE’**

Measurable Excellence

Over the past two decades CDOC has been more than 99.9% successful at preventing escapes from prison.

An incapacity focus cannot solve the capacity problem

16000 + held in secure 24/7 facilities + Restrictions on Movement + Restrictions on behavior

=

16000 prison compliant inmates

PRISON COMPLIANCE

DOES NOT =

COMMUNITY READINESS

INCAPACITATED v. COMMUNITY READY

**92% of the currently incapacitated people
in DOC will become parole eligible**

40 % are past parole eligibility

**85% are Code of Penal Discipline
Compliant**

THE BIG QUESTION

Does CO have the people, practices, and funding to safely supervise a larger population of inmates and parolees in the community?

SORTING CONTAINERS AND PERSONNEL

SECURE

- Hold and secure 24/7 facilities
- Restricted movement and behavior

SORT

- Classification
- Case Management

REFINE

- Care
- Programs
- Time

SORT: CLASSIFICATION: CASE MANAGEMENT

The whole point of Classification and Case Management is to sort us out.

SORT: CLASSIFICATION: CASE MANAGEMENT

Inmates and Parolees are being identified for parole, community corrections, OR Intensive Supervised Parole based more on PED and MRD opposed to merit.

PED & MRD vs. COMMUNITY READINESS

- A large increase to the population being served in the community would not be a problem if....
 - Public confidence increased regarding community readiness of inmates and parolees being supervised in the community
- Why are we not selecting more community ready inmates and parolees for community supervision?
 - Problems with Classification
 - Problems with Case Management

SORT:CLASSIFICATION:CASE MANAGEMENT

- DOC overemphasis on Security has:
 - Reduced the effectiveness of the sorting process
 - Become a detriment to the Refinement process

REFINE

Care staff are being repurposed for security purposes

- Health, training, skill development, progression opps
- Case Managers undertrained and under utilized
- Teachers are being posted
- Peer assets being exploited

OUR CALL TO ACTION

- ☑ Increase CDOC transparency and accountability
 - Lets create a committee to re-establish and re-implement policies that work.

- ☑ Reiterate the solution to CDOC and the community
 - “The only way to significantly reduce the DOC budget in a safe sustainable way is to reduce the prison population by closing prisons and reducing the number of employees”

JUSTIN BRAKKE

“The only way to significantly reduce the DOC budget in a safe and sustainable way is to reduce the prison population in order to close prisons and reduce the number of employees.”

Our Awesome Team

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Director of Policy
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Trinidad Correctional Facility
Troy Brownlow
Jesse Miller
Norman Vasquez



Thank You!

LEGISLATION INSIDE

