

Logan Correctional
Center

*Public Comments related to Facility
Closure*

As of 5/15/2024

Rheannon Frost
Logan Correctional Center
Mental Health Staff Assistant
Written Statement
Rheannon94@gmail.com

Hello,

As a contracted employee through Wexford Health and having my husband be a correctional officer here at Logan Correctional Center, the potential closure of this facility will cause great financial strain on our family. We as a couple worked very hard to achieve our goals and be employed out here at Logan Correctional Center knowing that it was the best paying job with outstanding benefits in Logan County and without having to commute. The convenience of being able to work without a commute provides us more time to spend with our two daughters. The idea that those who currently work at Logan Correctional Center can simply commute to the new facility if it is built up north is in my opinion, ridiculous. This would be taking hours of time away from our family just to commute for our jobs. The thought of having to sell our house and relocate does not sit well either. The northern part of Illinois is much more expensive than central Illinois and we would not be able to afford the same “luxuries” we have here. We bought a beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 and half bath home here in Lincoln 3 years ago for a fraction of what it would cost to move up north, we would also be having to move away from our families who help with watching our children daily. This would cause us to have to pay for childcare, which again, is expensive on its own. We have fought so hard to achieve our goal of being able to build ourselves up financially to provide a great life for our daughters, and the thought of this facility closing has put so much unease into our lives. There are very few jobs that offer the same pay range that working at Logan Correctional Center does. Our hope is that you will realize that closing this facility will cause this same kind of financial strain on hundreds of employees here in Logan County and will cause a severe negative economic impact for Lincoln/Logan County. We are centrally located in Illinois, this offers the families that live in southern Illinois of those that are incarcerated here, less hours of having to travel to visit. It also reduces the amount of time spent on writs/court furloughs for the individuals and employees that must escort them. If this facility were to close and be relocated to the northern part of Illinois, it would cause increased drive times for the people who have to travel from southern Illinois for visits, and increase the amount of time individuals are out on writs/court furloughs, which will cause increased overtime potential for those correctional officers that have to drive from northern Illinois to southern Illinois for these individuals that have to go to southern Illinois for any writ/court furlough. Again, I hope that you and the other politicians of Illinois, will see the need of keeping this facility open and rebuilding here in Logan County.

The proposed closure of the Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln will have a significant economic impact on the community and region. An April 2024 Economic Impact Study shows the direct job loss of 493 employees will trigger an additional induced loss of 57 jobs and a cumulative loss of \$38,563,952 in labor income to the region. The cumulative output value shows

an overall loss to the region of \$51,989,365 (value added and intermediate expenditures) as an economic impact. The overall projected economic impact of the facility closure totals more than \$61 million, largely due to additional losses in county, state, and federal taxes, an impact of \$9,575,108.

As you are aware, Logan County has had several economic challenges over the last several years. The closing of Lincoln College (estimated annual economic impact of \$51 million) and Lincoln Christian University has impacted our economy through the loss of revenue generated by both institutions from outside sources. Closing Logan Correctional Center will reach far beyond those employed at the facility – the effect will ripple through our community at the cost of an additional 57 jobs. While relocating this facility to a different county may be a zero-sum job loss to the state of Illinois, that cannot be said of the impact on Logan County or the Central Illinois region.

In Logan County, we face many economic challenges. Rebuild Logan Correctional Center at its current location in Logan County and show that you support growth and prosperity in every Illinois county.

Thank you

Besides all the employees that work at the facility currently the closure would affect far more for the area. Local pharmacies fill prescriptions when needed, people visit the area, hotels and restaurants will be affected. Logan county don't have much offer for residents, visitors or travelers. Logan county will be vanished if this were to happen, what is actually in the area to offer the people around this area. People will start moving out of state, to find better pay, less taxes, and more that is offered. Please keep Logan county intact.

Kelli Allison

Paws Giving Independence NFP located in Peoria has their service dog training program through Logan Correctional, Helping Paws. Helping Paws and donations allows Paws Giving Independence to place service animals for free to recipients. I am a service dog recipient from Helping Paws and Paws Giving Independence NFP. With my service dog, Ace, I am enabled. I would like to see Helping Paws continue enabling people in our community during any new construction. Of course then, to continue afterwards.

C David Ross

Paw giving independence and logan dog trainer providing Free service dogs to the local community. These ladies are essential in keeping this non profit organization with their support. Furthermore, I believe it not only helps the dogs but the ladies in prison. Dogs teach compassion and I think this is essentially benifits the women in logan not only in behavior but learning to care for something 24 hours a day.

Kevin Collins

Good Day.

I would like to voice my opinion on the closing of the Logan County Correctional Facility. I first would like to start off by saying I am a very concerned citizen of the city of lincoln, IL. The closing of this facility would do more harm than good. These officers and other staff are our neighbors and for some loved ones. We care very much for their well being and this will affect them more than you think. Some of them can not just up and relocate and not only that some of them have given years of service not only to the state of Illinois and that facility but to their community and you want them to give that up and for what? I'm all about justice reform but closing one facility to build another is not going to solve anything. Also I would like to bring up the impact it would have on a already struggling town like lincoln. It is not easy living here with most jobs being low wages. The best places for a job here is Eaton, Lincoln Corrections, and yes even Logan County Corrections. Also won't just impact the city but the county as well, with the revenue it will lose. I see this move as another thing that this state is doing to degrade and bankrupt the more southern portions of the state and believe that if this is allowed it will prove that even more.

In conclusion I am opposed to the closing of the Logan County corrections facility.

Sincerely

Collin Hall

To Whom It May Concern:

I currently have a facility dog that was trained in the Helping Paws Program and feel like this is not only a way for the inmates to give back and have purpose but it also trains amazing dogs

who work in the community. Marshall is my facility dog trained at Logan Correctional Center and he interacts daily with 300 students and staff. In his training with the women at the correctional center he was well prepared and ready to help students with self regulation, feeling identification, empathy, problem solving, gratitude and a help provide a positive climate at school. I work in a Title 1 school and have utilized Marshall's specialty training to diffuse and de-escalate behavior issues and he is also a great reward for students. The women at Logan Correctional facility provide an invaluable service and skill set. Marshall is successful in his job because of their skill, dedication and love for animals. I applaud them for using their time while incarcerated to help and give back to the community. I am a concerned citizen and advocate for the Helping Paws program.

Thank you--

Mrs. Emily McCormick

Dear Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

I am writing to you with a heavy heart and a deep sense of urgency regarding the impending decision to close/relocate Logan Correctional Center. As a dedicated employee and member of the community, I implore you to reconsider this course of action and to recognize the profound ramifications it will have on both my family and our broader community. Logan Correctional Center is a vital cornerstone of our community. Its closure would not only mean the loss of jobs for myself and my colleagues but also the erosion of the economic stability that our families rely on.

The closure of Logan Correctional Center would have immediate and devastating consequences for the families of its employees. Many of us rely solely on the income we earn here to provide for our loved ones. Specifically, I use the income I receive through my employment to help provide an easier and fulfilling retirement for my great grandparents. I am not only their soul caretaker but also their power of attorney. They rely on me to handle many of the important decisions still left in their day-to-day lives. A successful attempt at the closure and relocation of my facility would force me to make an ultimate decision; follow my job and make providing care to my grandparents more difficult or look for different job opportunities within the area of which I am already in so that my current level of care can be continued.

Logan Correctional Center plays a crucial role in the local economy, supporting numerous businesses and services in the area. Its closure would lead to a domino effect, causing a decline in local spending, loss of revenue for local businesses, and ultimately, a

stagnation of economic growth. This, in turn, would exacerbate poverty and inequality within our community, creating a cycle of hardship that would be difficult to break.

Beyond its economic impact, Logan Correctional Center is an integral part of the social fabric of our community. Logan County has always been a vital backbone of the state's law enforcement outreach specifically for the Department of Corrections; we are the only county in the state to at one time house individuals in custody of both male, female, trans male, trans female, and and soon to be youth. Without the hard work and dedication of the people of Logan County, the Department of Corrections would not have been able to provide the level of care to its individuals in custody that it has for the last few decades. Its closure would not only result in the loss of jobs but also the loss of a sense of belonging and identity for many members of our community. The social bonds that have been forged within its walls would be severed, leaving a void that cannot easily be filled.

I understand that tough decisions must be made in the interest of fiscal responsibility and long-term planning. No staff member nor individual in custody can disagree with the state's point about Logan's failing infrastructure and unsafe environment. However, I urge you to consider the alternative solution that has been proposed not only by our local union but by many of the members of our community. Logan Correctional Center can be rebuilt at its current location. This alternative solution would not only accomplish the mission put forward by the Department of Corrections and your organization but would also create the smoothest transition not only for the staff but for those in custody at our facility. I believe that with collaboration and creativity, we can find a way to preserve this valuable asset and safeguard the well-being of our families and community.

In closing, I implore you to weigh the human cost of your decision and to recognize the profound impact that the closure of Logan Correctional Center would have on the lives of countless individuals. I urge you to choose compassion over austerity, and to stand with us in ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

Sincerely,
Blake Utterback
Correctional Food Service Supervisor 1
Logan Correctional Center

I understand that some people may want it to move but you don't understand or don't care about how much of an impact it will have on our families that work here at Logan. It isn't just a simple

relocate or retrain for something else. This time is very stressful with the unknowing of what could or will happen eventually. You don't understand how many younger COs are out here with me, and not many are at the age of retiring. I have been here almost 10 years now, and not at an age to retire. I get moving to another facility is fine and dandy until it takes a toll on our spouses and our children for those of my coworkers who have them. Myself included in that having 3 young children and a wife at home. It's not that easy!! You don't understand or don't care how much of an impact it is going to take on Logan County if it does move! So, before you say move it. Reflect on how much it's going to impact those families that must relocate or even travel to another facility that's hours away and take away from their families in the process of them not being there. We need to take in account of how many families it's going to impact deeply if Logan does close and relocates. My family has lived in Logan County for almost 8 years now and love how close our community is and how we all pull together when families are in need. There are several of my fellow COs that live within Logan County that this will impact and disrupt their families and way of living. We have made a way of living and laid roots down deep here in Logan County and relocating isn't an option for my family. We have friends and family here; uprooting and moving hours away would be detrimental with how close everyone is.

Thank you
Mark Johnson
309-838-5192

Greetings:

My name is Eric McNamara. I am a 20 year veteran of the department of corrections. I am currently working as a correctional lieutenant, at Logan Correctional Center. Prior to working at Logan CC, I worked 9 years at Dwight Correctional Center. I have spent my entire career within IDOC, working with the population at Logan CC.

I started my career on January 5, 2004, at Dwight Correctional Center. On April 1, 2013, I started my first day at Logan CC. I was able to witness firsthand, the damage of closing a facility. Between 2013 and 2018, our staff assaults at Logan Correctional Center rose exponentially. This was mostly caused, by the staff at Logan CC not knowing how to work with the female population. Working with the female population, is the most challenging position in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

After a decade at Logan Correctional Center, I can say the inmate population is finally settled in. Our staff assaults have drastically dropped, these past 6 years. This is mostly due to our staff finally being trained on how to manage the female population. If we close Logan CC and ship them up north to Stateville, this will be ten times worse than 2013. I can verify that most of our staff, will not follow the population to Stateville CC. I fear for the safety of staff, and the individuals in custody.

PLEASE consider building Logan CC, on the grounds within Logan County. No staff within IDOC can manage this population, like the staff at Logan Correctional Center can.

Thanks for listening.

Eric McNamara
Correctional Lieutenant
Local 2073 Treasurer

Hello. My name is Chris Slaby. I am a resident of Lincoln, Illinois writing in opposition to the plan to relocate Logan Correctional Center to Will County.

There is the notion that current employees will be able to find employment elsewhere with the Illinois Department of Corrections. While Decatur Correctional Center is a 45-minute, one-way commute (the same commute time I myself make for a job in a different field and city), other opportunities listed - Taylorville, Jacksonville, and Pontiac, to name a few - are well outside that driving radius. Countless studies suggest commutes should not be longer than 20-30 miles. The relocation of Logan Correctional Center would place an impossible choice on current Logan employees: endure a far-too long commute and sacrifice time with families and loved ones for work, or uproot their family - and ties to their community - to relocate for another employment opportunity.

In just the past few years, Lincoln has lost two higher education institutions and the city's literal main grocery store, Kroger. To remove this key employer from Lincoln would be akin to kicking a proverbial dog while it is down.

To be clear: the current iteration of Logan Correctional Center must be shuttered and replaced. The current facility is outdated and in deplorable. If investment is going to be made in the

facility, building new IS the appropriate course of action. However, it is an inappropriate course of action to relocate an employer of more than 500 well-paying jobs from a county with a population of less than 28,000 people, to a county of about 700,000 people that is part of the third-largest metropolitan area in the United States.

Ever since the current Governor was inaugurated in 2019, he - and members of the General Assembly - have focused their messaging on creating equitable opportunities for everyone across Illinois. This is a message I have wholeheartedly agreed with since day one. However, relocating Logan Correctional Center would be a stout contradiction of that message and moral stance. Do the right thing and keep Logan Correctional Center in Logan County.

Yours Truly,

Chris Slaby

Hello, I am the MHDON at Logan CC, I have worked at this prison for 6 years and most of that time was as a floor nurse. I am very confused why the plan for this prison is to move it to Will county. Let me tell you about my prison. We are the biggest mental health facility in the state of Illinois, out of the 1100 females we have her about 900 of them are on our case load. Mental health here has many levels and some of these individuals are very sick. We are the only female intake unit and if it is moved so far north it would be impossible for southern counties to transfer the females to court or to the prison and back within a shift. This would impact visits for some of them, d/t it would make it hard for families to travel so far to see their daughter, their sister or mother. What about the pregnant offenders, would it affect them being able to see their babies and families picking up their breast milk. It would definitely affect any bonding time they would have and family time that our females have with their kids during family weekends. We have about 36 mental health staff that would loose their jobs, not to mention that the government would have to come up with replacements and get them trained to deal with this population. Our officers have special training to deal with them also. Last but not least the affect the move would have on Logan county and staff that come to work every day and work diligently to take care of these females and try to get them to learn coping skills and the hope that they will learn enough to be able to leave this prison one day and not come back.

Thank you for you consideration
Darlene Henrikson

I, Trevor Pinkley, have worked at Logan Correctional Center for 9 years as a corrections officer. In my time here at Logan I believe I have had a good impact with staff members and individuals in custody both. Some may say that working with the woman individuals is much harder than dealing with men. The staff here are use to working with our population and have developed repours with these individuals. I believe moving Logan Correctional Center north of Lincoln, IL will have a huge impact on not only staff members but the individuals in custody that live here day in and day out. If the facility is moved that far away there would be very little amount of staff, if any, that would remain working with our current population. I do not believe the people calling the shots for the move have any idea how bad this could go for our entire population to be relocated hours north from Lincoln, IL and also to try and reacclimate a new location away from their families but also learning and dealing with new staff members that they do not know. The female individuals in custody highly rely on consistency and authority that they can look up to. They have school teachers, bosses in theirs jobs, and direct supervising staff that they know they can go to if they have problems because they have established a repour with those staff members. How does the governor's office think the population will react to dealing with all new staff? This will also displace many if not more than 75% of the population from their families that come to visit them. How can the governor's office claim they are not getting adequate treatment at Logan CC when they have more than double the counseling staff and mental health staff in the 9 years I've worked here. How does the governor's office plan to staff this facility in Crest Hill when they cannot staff Stateville currently? I don't see how they will have more to offer by making this move.

I believe the closure of Logan CC will have a very negative impact on staff members. This will force many staff to have to travel further than they already do for work. It could force many staff members and their families to have to relocate to a closer city where they would be making a transfer to a new facility. Many staff members already have moved to the surrounding areas of Logan CC upon accepting their jobs here. This will affect almost 500 employees. Some employees may take significant pay cuts just to keep a job if there's cannot be replaced or if they are unable to travel up to 90 miles one way just to keep their current job. It really destroys the morale at a facility when you are told they are going to relocate your job at any given point and leave you with a million questions for your future.

I believe there is no reason that Logan CC cannot be rebuilt on the grounds it sits on currently. Half the facility is currently closed or under construction. There is no reason it couldn't be rebuilt right now, right here.

Trevor Pinkley
Logan Correction Center
Correctional Officer

It is in the best interest of all parties for the new women's correctional facility to be built in Logan County.

First, there is one maximum security facility in the state of Illinois that also houses individuals who are not eligible to be housed at Decatur Correctional Center. This facility needs to be centrally located for transporting people in custody to the facility for intake processing and from the facility various court and medical writs. Transportation and staffing cost will increase dramatically if the women's correctional facility is moved to northern Illinois. Overtime, vehicle upkeep, gas costs will add up quickly. These costs will be passed on to individual counties who have county jail staff and parole officers transport individuals to the women's facility for intake processing. Many of the southern counties are small and the additional costs for transporting individuals an additional 100 miles one way will be detrimental.

Second, many of the people housed at Logan Correctional Center are parents of minor children and have families. Having a centrally located facility helps families keep connected to people in custody. A primary factor of resilience is family support. People are more likely to prioritize their family when they can see them in-person which will encourage positive change. Most women in custody will be discharged to the community. Maintaining family relationships reduces recidivism because individuals in custody have people to come home to. Safety at the facility improves from the individuals keeping family connections with in-person visits because people are motivated to engage in pro-social behavior at the facility when they depend on visits and are held accountable for their actions by family members. The families of the people in custody and DCFS and agency social workers in their counties will also incur the staffing and transportation costs if the women's facility is moved to a northern county. For families that have DCFS involvement, children are mandated to have in-person visits each month. The additional travel time will be more difficult emotionally and logistically as children may miss days of school or other enriching activities to travel for 14 hours to see their parent for a 4-hour visit.

Third, Logan Correctional Center is a significant employer that benefits Logan and surrounding counties. I like working at Logan and working with women in custody. I, and many of my coworkers cannot travel more than 1 hour to and from work. And many of us do not want to relocate. I enjoy living in my community. My paycheck goes much farther here

than it will in an area where the cost of living is higher. In addition to the comradery of staff that Logan, correctional staff, other IDOC staff, substance treatment counselors, mental health and medical staff work at Logan because the wage is very good for this area. People that work at Logan live in and spend their money in these smaller communities. Local businesses benefit from people that work here and people that travel here to meet with individuals in custody.

Please rebuild the women's facility at Logan. Moving the women's correctional facility farther north will be a financial burden to the state, counties, social service agencies, and employees at Logan. Rebuilding Logan in a northern county will irreparably damage Illinois women, children, and families, Lincoln township, and surrounding communities. The State has invested in keeping good employers in central Illinois by giving millions of dollars in incentives to Rivian and Ferrero to stay in Bloomington and expand their facilities. Keeping Logan Correctional Center in Logan County is an opportunity for the state to invest in the families and smaller communities in central and southern Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janeen Wright, LCPC

Corrections Assessment Specialist

Logan Correctional Center

I am strongly advocating for Logan CC to NOT be relocated up north to Will County. Logan CC offers multiple employment opportunities to so many individuals in Logan County and the surrounding counties. Moving the facility up north will greatly impact these jobs and hurt many families that will be affected by this closure.

Logan CC offers many services to the individuals in custody while they are incarcerated. I am a mental health professional for Logan CC, and I assist my patients with processing their traumas, crimes, helping them with achieving their goals, and helping to set them up for success once they are released. Mental health is very important for these individuals, and we have a big mental health staff here at Logan who would also be affected by this closure. If the facility were to relocate up north, that would be a 3+ hour commute which no one would be willing to accommodate. Our staff would be forced to relocate elsewhere to another facility (and hope they have positions available) or apply to a whole new type of employment altogether.

Logan is currently housing 1,000+ individuals and these individuals benefit greatly when it comes to Logan being centrally located. This allows their families to be able to visit them frequently and they do not have to commute many miles to see their loved ones. Being centrally located also helps parents be able to visit with their kids more often if they are

involved with DCFS. Being centrally located in the middle of Bloomington, Springfield, Peoria, and Champaign-Urbana is extremely helpful due to the number of resources readily available to the individuals in custody.

The population of Logan CC is so diverse. We have many different treatment units. We have intake and receiving, a residential treatment unit for those that are unable to care for themselves on their own, a crisis watch unit for those who are struggling with suicidal ideations/self-harm, a substance abuse treatment program, schooling, employment opportunities for the individuals in custody, transgender services, as well as many other services.

I would greatly consider you listen to the staff here at Logan CC and the COMMUNITY of Logan County and the surrounding counties and how this closure would greatly affect the community and the morale of individuals.

Shannon Kennedy, LSW

Qualified Mental Health Professional – HU6
Wexford Health Sources, Inc.
Logan Correctional Center
(217) 735-5581 | Ext. 3428
Work Schedule: Sun-Thu 8am-4pm

I started my career with IDOC in 2011. We were a men's facility at the time. Two years later we got the females from Dwight C.C. and Lincoln C.C. The process was pure chaos. No one had a plan and Logan had no idea what we were getting ourselves into. The next 4 to 5 years were, by far, the most challenging work environment. Massive turnover rates, staff assaults, mandates every shift. We, as Logan staff, have sacrificed A LOT of time away from our family. But we have stepped up to the challenge and made the best of it. We have learned to work together. We have stood by each other. We have protected each other. We have had each other's back.

If you have never worked with the female population, you must know that it is not for everyone. You must have patience. You do not adapt to this type of environment overnight. I've been in this department for 13 years now, 11 years with the female population and I am still learning every day. Luckily, I have established respect with majority of the female individuals in custody and do not plan on working with anybody else for the remainder of my career with IDOC. This is why I trust the staff that I work with because we have experienced every situation together. We have broken-up individual in custody fights. We have cut pieces of string off countless individual in custody's necks because they didn't want to live anymore. We've performed CPR

to bring them back. We have dealt with the suicides because they felt they had no other choice and checked on each other days after to make sure we are coping. We have saved an individual in custody from slicing their neck open with a razor blade. We have fought an individual in custody who had a shank in their hand because moments before that, they sliced and injured our brother up. We have stopped an individual in custody from stabbing themselves in the leg with a light bulb. We have been on numerous medical writs where we have fought a severely mentally ill individual in custody to get proper health care treatment after she just broke her neck from jumping off the sink in her cell. All these situations and many, many more have made us stronger and better to work with these females.

In 2013, I began my relationship with my husband. We got married in 2017. We started the process of expanding our family in 2018. Once that year went by, we were told we needed to start doing fertility treatments. We have been going through fertility treatments the past 5 years. For the next 3 years we would try fertility treatments in Springfield IL. We went through 8 IUI's and a failed attempt at IVF. In 2022, we moved our fertility treatments to St. Louis. In January of 2023, we got pregnant but only to lose our baby in March 2023. I got pregnant again in October 2023 and am currently 32 weeks pregnant. This will be my first child and will not be my last as I plan on having more kids. I need to be close to my fertility clinic and I choose my family first. I will raise my family in Logan County as I have with my stepchildren.

Ashley Ulery

My name is Michael Conley I have been a correctional officer at Logan CC for the last five years. I urge you to NOT rebuild Logan CC in Crest Hill, IL. My wife, three children, and I moved to Lincoln eight years ago from east central Illinois. We have developed our family roots here in Lincoln. My kids are now 15, 12, and 10. None of us want to have to relocate and I sure don't want to have to drive 3 hours every day just to get to my job and back home. The relocation of the prison would have devastating effects to the local economy of Logan County and surrounding areas. I'm not sure what the governor and his team are thinking when they plan to move the CENTRAL and ONLY reception for the female individual population to the northern part of the state. There are logistical reasons why we are located in Logan County. Moving the facility north would mean southern counties would have to drive that much further to bring intakes and the officers at said facility would have to travel that distance as well for writs and furloughs. I once again urge you for a smooth transition keep Logan Correctional Center in Logan County!

Thanks,

Michael Conley

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Craig W Bean and I am currently a Correctional Sergeant at Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln Illinois. I am married with three children who live at home, and one that lives within five minutes of my house in Lincoln. I also have two grandchildren whom my wife watches and on my days off I also watch them. I am an active member in my community, volunteering with my local church, Lincoln Area Youth Wrestling, Lincoln Community High School Wrestling, the Local VFW, and I am the Assistant Wrestling Coach at Lincoln Junior High School.

Recently we were notified that Logan Correctional Center will be closing and it is the intention of the State to re-build it in Will County which is 129 miles from Logan County and almost a two hour drive. I have been employed by the Department of Corrections for five years. Before that I was a Shift Supervisor at a Glass Manufacturing Plant in Lincoln which unfortunately closed, and for the 21 years before that I was in the United States Navy. I have traveled all over the world and lived all over the United States and chose to retire in Illinois.

Five years ago when the Glass Manufacturing Plant closed, I was given the opportunity to transfer with the company which I turned down. There were several reasons that I did this. The biggest reason that I did not transfer was my family. The 21 years I was in the United States Navy I moved every three to five years. My wife and kids were settled in Lincoln and we were finally able to buy our own home. My children had made friends that they would not have to leave, my wife was involved in the community and we all found a church that we were excited to go to. When I turned down this transfer and took a job with the Department of Corrections I

took a 55% pay cut . I had to cash out multiple 401k's just to make ends meet until I was able to graduate the Corrections Academy and start getting paid. Even with the pay cut it was worth it to see my wife and kids happy.

Now five years later I am forced to make this decision again. I have a few options with my career in the Department of Corrections. First, do I sell my house and move two hours away? This is not a viable option due to the housing market and my family being settled in Logan County. Second is do I take a Voluntary Reduction back to Corrections Officer so I can transfer to a facility close to Logan County? As a Correctional Sergeant I am near the bottom of Seniority, but as Corrections Officer I am in the top 50%. The third option is to just leave the Department of Corrections all together. I do not want to do this at all. I am nearly 47 years old and I do not want to "start over" again. I enjoy coming to work every day. The challenges of dealing with the incarcerated female population are new and different every day which makes this job exciting.

The closing of Logan Correctional Center and moving it out of Logan County will not only affect me and my family but it will also affect the nearly 500 other staff that work at Logan Correctional Center, from Security Staff to the many Non-Security Staff that are employed here. This will also have a major impact on the community. There are staff that work at Logan Correctional Center from the surrounding counties, not just Logan County. However, Logan County will take the biggest hit. The revenue that is generated from the staff purchasing food at the local restaurants, or snacks and gas at the local gas stations. Logan County has taken a huge hit in the last five years. First as I stated earlier with the closing of the Glass Manufacturing plant which was first opened in 1942, then Lincoln College closed after 157 years and then Lincoln Christian University after 78 years. We do not need to lose another employer in Logan County!

So in conclusion I am opposed to the closing of Logan Correctional Center and moving it to Will County.

I would be willing to provide oral testimony at any hearing related to the closure of Logan Correctional Center.

Very Respectfully,

Craig W Bean
1608 North Union Street
Lincoln, Illinois 62656
(309) 716-5752 (cell)

To whom it may concern,

It saddens me to have to be in a position where I am going to lose my Job as a Substance abuse counselor at Logan CC. I am a contractual worker and I have no options to transfer to another WestCare program as there are no positions available to work with women, except for over 2 hours away from where I live. I live in Lincoln, and my entire family lives in Lincoln, so relocation would be hard. I am a family-oriented person and I love being live close to my family and having a job that is close to my family so I can support them. I have lived in Lincoln Illinois for the past 24 years. I became a Substance abuse counselor in 2014. I love my job and the ability to help women in prison become rehabilitated before they are released.

I work closely with the women every day to help them with their drug abuse problems as well as other mental health problems related to their addiction. I work with them to help them change their behaviors and other ways of thinking so they can go out and be productive members in society. The program currently has 130 individuals in custody that are working on bettering themselves. All the women in the program currently are very angry that they are being forced to go to Decatur Correctional center if they are Minimum security because majority of them are in school, work or are in the program so they are receiving credit for time off their sentences. The Individuals in custody would rather remain in Logan CC to receive time off their sentence and go home sooner to their families. They do not want to be forced to go to a different facility that is further away from their families. They are also very angry that they are been removed for programs to help them better themselves and are taken Decatur Correctional Center, which does not offer a general substance abuse program, the only substance abuse program they have currently is a 26 bed Dual diagnosis/substance abuse program for the woman and the wait list can take over a year to get them in. The individuals in custody are not being allowed to complete the treatment that they are currently in before being moved to Decatur, so they are having to start over again. If you really think about it, keeping the women at Logan CC, that are in treatment currently or are on the waitlist would help the state save money in the long run because those individuals are earning time off their sentence and would cost the state less money remaining at Logan and getting out sooner instead of going to Decatur CC and remaining incarcerated and costing the state more.

The Loss of Logan CC in Lincoln puts a strain of everyone. Women(Individuals in custody) need a Prison in a central location because a lot of our female population have family down south and it makes it easier for everyone to visit their loved ones in prison. It would allow families located all around the state of IL to visit their loved ones easier. Lincoln, IL is a nice small town and the loss of Lincoln College(university), and Lincoln Christian University have already negatively impacted the Logan County community and people have had to move out of town to find jobs because of the closures of those schools. Please Rebuild Logan Correctional Center in Logan County. It would be the best for all parties involved. Let's not make things

political and force a Prison to be built closer to Chicago, IL due to political reasons. Illinois needs more woman's resources in the central and southern areas anyway, so why not Instead of building a woman's prison where there are prisons and resources available already, why don't we create more resources throughout the state in communities where they are lacking and building the prison in Logan County, a central location would help the southern and central communities. Doing this would offer all different types of employment opportunities as well as resources for individuals in custody.

If Logan Correction Center is not rebuilt in Logan County, I will be forced to move out of Lincoln, find another job that would be entry level and must relocate my family and that is not okay. All Staff currently positioned at Logan Correctional center are trained and work within the facility now in the Logan County area. All staff live in the central surrounding towns that are close to Logan County or they live in Logan County, if you relocate the building site of the prison to Will County, you will have to train new staff and contract new staff for programs in that area. It makes more sense to just rebuild in Logan County and just transfer the staff already trained and working in the institution. It would be better for everyone to keep Logan Correction center in Logan County, so please look and listen to what all staff, families of staff, and individuals in custody are saying and do not move the location of Logan Correctional Center. Keep the prison in Logan County!

Sincerely,
Glodonna Trimby

To whom it may concern,

My name is Meredith Jones and I have been employed with the Illinois Department of corrections for over 13 years. The majority of that time has been at Logan, with all of my time being served in Logan county. I want to strongly urge you all to keep this facility in the central Illinois area. This closure will destroy the economy of Lincoln and surrounding areas. This area has built its structure around the prison and the business that it brings to town. From lodging the visiting families in hotels, feeding them at restaurants, providing medical care to those in custody at the hospitals, and providing jobs to locals inside the prison as security and support staff. This closure will not only effect the town, and the surrounding area, but it will negatively impact the individuals in custody and the many employees at Logan. I myself will have to either completely leave the department or take a voluntary reduction in pay because my job title is so few and far between throughout the state. There are currently only three vacancies for my title in the state, 2 of which are in Vienna and Centralia. This only accounts for myself not the CU-500 bargaining unit, there are dozens more that will likely have to either leave the

department or take a huge cut in pay just to keep their jobs. We are all tax payers and constituents that have a voice that should count in this matter, and we are being overlooked and being played as pawns in a political cash grab. This will also greatly negatively effect the female population currently housed at Logan. When Dwight closed in 2013 the percentage of individual on staff assaults, individual on individual assaults, and suicide attempts sky rocketed. It took many years for them to begin to feel comfortable with the staff and their surroundings again. If this population is forced to move again, 2013 will repeat itself once again. There will not be any familiar staff or surroundings. It is our duty to keep them safe and secure, why would we put this population through this all over again? At this point 69% of our population resides in counties south of Interstate 80. These women have children and families that already travel upwards of 3 to 4 hours just to visit with their family members if they are coming from counties such as Alexander. The vast majority of our population is from central and southern Illinois, why would we move this population to Joliet, where there are already 2 facilities that critically struggle to hire and maintain the staffing levels needed to run a safe and secure prison? Those working at Logan will not be making that commute. Furthermore, this population is very unique not only being female, but multi-level security, extremely mentally ill, and the transgender community as well. The staff who have worked here with this population are very in tune with and proficient with trauma informed care practices. This isn't something that a 1 hour state sponsored training can teach you, this takes years of practice and interaction with this population. These women have gained a sense of trust with Logan staff and their surroundings. Removing them from that is not only cruel, but also dangerous.

Thank you,

Meredith Jones
Casework Supervisor R&C
Logan Correctional Center | Lincoln, Illinois

Dear Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

My name is Lisa Dial a Correctional Sergeant at Logan Correctional Center. I am submitting on the closure of Logan Correctional Center. I feel that the facility should be kept in Logan County. It is centrally located for all business that is conducted on a daily basis at this facility. It would cause significant downfall in the economy of Logan County. I have worked at this facility 21 years and seen the impact on the individuals in custody when

They were moved here when Dwight Correctional Center closed. It was very hard on individuals and employees' when this happened. It takes special training to handle women who are incarcerated and the Mentally Ill individuals in custody. We did not have all the training we needed when this happened and it was catastrophic to us and the individuals in custody. Many of these individuals would not wish to go through this again. Please take my letter in consideration.

Thank you,
Sgt. Lisa Dial

To whom it may concern,

I have worked for the Illinois Department of Corrections for 5 years. If you move Logan to Statesville it will negatively effect my family in more ways than one. This job helps to support me and my Fiancé. Between my fiancé and myself we have 5 kids. This job has provided us the opportunity to be able to do just a little bit extra each month with the kids. It also allows us to be able to put food on the table and a roof over our head. My daughter also attends school in the Williamsville school district due to me living in that school district. If we would have to relocate my daughter would lose the opportunity to continue to attend that school and would have to transfer and miss out on the education and athletic possibilities that Williamsville has to offer. This job also allows me to stay close to my father. My dad is 81 now and lives 2 minutes away from me. He was diagnosed with early Alzheimer's last year and his condition is progressively getting worse. I am the only family he has that is able to take care of him. With his memory getting worse only with time. This job location allows me to stay close to my dad to be able to take him to doctor appointments and be able to check on him on a daily basis since he is right down the road. The possible relocation would drastically effect my family in an extremely negative manner. I hope you will rebuild Logan on the existing grounds. I know I am not the only one who would be impacted my this.

Sincerely,
Andrew Lazar

Dear Members of C.O.G.F.A or whom it may concern,

This is my written statement and stance I hold about Logan Correctional Center (C.C.). I strongly oppose the state's plan to relocate Logan C.C. to the Statesville grounds. This move would greatly negatively impact myself, my family, my co-workers, my community, and a large percentage of the individuals in custody. The current plan seems to be a political move and unsensible. Logan C.C. should stay at Logan C.C. or at least nearby.

I left another law enforcement job to start my IDOC career over 5 years ago. I have been dedicated to Logan C.C. and serving the people of Illinois at Logan C.C. for many reasons. I have made many sacrifices during these years and feel like moving the facility would be a "slap in the face" to myself and my many colleagues who have made similar, and even more sacrifices than I have. Some of my co-workers will be more hurt by this than I, as they are older and will have a much harder time finding a decent job. I serve at Logan C.C. because I want to protect my community and the state as a whole. I believe Logan County is a suitable location where many people like me are willing to continue to serve. I have stayed at Logan C.C. because it is a good job (better than most in the area) that has supported my family and ensured they are well taken care of.

If the state goes through with their plan, I will have to drastically change how I live and how I care for my family. I would have to relocate (which is not feasible), transfer to another prison, or make the choice to stay with IDOC. Transferring to another prison in central Illinois would cost my family thousands of dollars in additional travel expenses a year. I would also lose out on spending my priceless time with my precious children who do not need their dad gone any more than what is necessary. This move would be unfair to so many families and would cause undue harm to countless state employees. They rely on their long-held positions at Logan C.C. to support their families and contribute to the numerous communities in central Illinois.

The Logan County community (area businesses and local governments) cannot afford to lose out on revenue brought in by Logan C.C. and its employees. Logan C.C. employees spend A LOT of money in Lincoln and surrounding communities, just because of the location. Lincoln has lost enough economic income already! Logan County businesses in particular will suffer tremendously more from additional loss of income spent in the county and from loss of taxes brought in to support their school systems and other public services. Logan C.C. employees impact the local economy greatly, but if Logan C.C. is moved, many employees would leave their homes in search of better employment. The relocation of Logan C.C. would destabilize the local economy and disrupt IDOC operations in unforeseeable ways.

Logan C.C. has had numerous repairs within the last 10 years (and even today) and has cost the state millions of dollars. It would be a shame for all that money to have been spent in vain. Logan C.C. needs repairs still but has a lot of good infrastructure and programs already in place. I support repairing the needed infrastructure and building what is needed on the grounds of Logan C.C. Why can't the new facility be built where Logan C.C. is, even if it is half at a time? There are better options than to dislocate everyone.

Logan C.C. employees have been properly trained how to work with the female population and our staff know them (which can be a great help at managing the population and their needs). The current employees are the best suitable and qualified for the job, why try to recruit at a new location when the manpower is already present and has shown their dedication? The current facility has the appropriate resources to help Individuals in Custody recover and rehabilitate. Logan C.C. has and can still continue to help people reintegrate into Illinois communities and become productive citizens. Moving Logan C.C. up north would be harmful for Individuals in Custody as well.

Logan C.C. is centrally located for citizens to visit their loved ones while incarcerated, this is how it should stay. Moving Logan C.C. would cause great burdens for the southern counties transporting Individuals in Custody and the family members wanting to provide some support to their incarcerated friends and family during visits. Transporting Individuals in Custody by IDOC to court dates would also be a huge obstacle if they are required to attend in Southern counties. The overtime and travel expenses for that to occur would be astronomical.

Please reconsider the plan to move Logan C.C. to a place inconvenient to employees and Individuals in Custody. I urge you to keep Logan C.C. open and rebuild it in a way and place that is financially responsible. The current plan has been poorly proposed and will severely impact so many lives.

Sincerely,
Correctional Officer Brenden Williams
Logan Correctional Center

Hello,

My name is Jacob R. Dixon, and I am a Lieutenant at Logan Correctional Center. I am writing to express my opposition to Logan Correctional Center closing and/or moving to the proposed location at Stateville. I feel that moving the institution that far north would be detrimental for several reasons. The first being the catastrophic economic damage it would cause Logan County and the city of Lincoln. That community has seen the closure of several community colleges and factories over the last few years. Lincoln and Logan County would be devastated by losing another mass employer in their community. Secondly, it would absolutely disenfranchise about 65-70% of the current population currently incarcerated at Logan Correctional Center from being able to visit with their families and loved ones. It would be very difficult, if not impossible for some families to make the trip that far north to visit. Some of the population at Logan Correctional Center, if moved that far north may NEVER see their loved ones again. Sadly, that is a real possibility. And lastly, perhaps, the most important reason not to close Logan Correctional Center and rebuild it at Stateville is that such a change and the reality of not seeing their loved ones on a regular basis, if at all could be devastating to the mental health of our population. There could be a significant risk of self-harm behaviors or even suicides. We are a specialized staff working within the women's division of the Illinois Department of Corrections that have been trained to manage these behaviors. I feel any changes in that area would be completely irresponsible and counterproductive.

Respectfully,

Lt. Jacob R. Dixon

Hello, my name is Thomas Reynolds. I am a Lieutenant at Logan Correctional Center. I have been employed with the Illinois Department of Corrections since August of 2010. I am married with two children (7 and 9 years old). Moving Logan Correctional Center out of Central Illinois would greatly affect my family, the city of Lincoln, some individuals in custody at Logan Correctional Center, and myself. If Logan Correctional Center is closed and relocated anywhere other than Central Illinois there is a good chance, I will have to take a demotion to enable my children to stay with their friends at school, stay close to their grandparents, and in their many activities they participate in. Also enabling my wife to continue with her career path. Taking a demotion back to an officer would cause financial hardships at my home. If I wanted to keep my current position with the department I would more than likely have to uproot my family and relocate causing undue stress to my family. The City of Lincoln can not afford to lose anymore

jobs. The city of Lincoln has lost many jobs over the past few years, and with the relocation of Logan Correctional Center I believe many businesses would have to close. Plus, many families would have to relocate to different parts of the state. There is also a vast difference between dealing with the Male and Female individuals in custody. I have worked with both during my career with the department, and from my experience you must approach your day-to-day operations completely different. Since most of the staff currently at Logan Correctional Center will not be willing to relocate to northern Illinois. The department of corrections will have tough transitions to the new facility while the staff get new training and learn how to best relate with the female population. The staff at Logan Correctional Center in my opinion are the best equipped to enable a smooth transition to a new facility for all parties involved. Moving the facility to northern Illinois instead of staying centrally located as it is now would alienate many of the individuals in custody with family and friends from southern Illinois. The move would make it much more difficult for them to receive visitation from the family and friends which is a huge part of the individuals in custody successfully completing their served time and successfully integrating back in society. I firmly believe that the female population needs a new facility, but I can not see any good reason why it would be located anywhere but Central Illinois.

Thomas Reynolds

Hello, my name is Erin Hamilton. I am a Dental Assistant at Logan C.C. my email is erin.hamilton@illinois.gov . I am writing to you today to explain why it is so imperative for Logan to stay open, not just for me and my husband and family but for all the 500+ employees.

In 2019 I was a struggling hair stylist who was losing business for some unforeseen reason. I was able to secure a job at Logan as a medical records clerk right before the outbreak of covid. I thank God every day for getting the job here at Logan. If it had not been for this place and us being a necessity to work, I would not have been able to provide for my family, with no unemployment because of being a sole business owner/booth renter. I did however leave in 2021 to pursue teaching cosmetology and open my own salon. Neither unfortunately panned out and again I was in desperate need of a job. Being told EVERYONE is hiring I put in over 50 applications for employment. After waiting 6 months for a response and just running out of unemployment guess who I got a call from?? Wexford/Logan. To rehire me back as a Dental Assistant. I cried so hard my struggle was finally over and I was back where I belong and should never have left in the first place. Logan is a family not just a job. Working here has been by far my favorite and most satisfying job I have ever had in the 26 years I've been working. I love that I get to help people and make them feel better and let them know someone does care. I care.

My husband cares. If you move Logan, you will be losing the one BHT that works the hardest and cares the most for these individuals. He makes them feel understood and safe and they know they can trust him, and they know he helps them. If you move Logan out of Lincoln these individuals will suffer a huge shock and loss of people that care about them.

My husband and I cannot afford to drive 3 hours a day to work somewhere else. We have children we care for that are in sports and other parents to consider that makes it impossible for us to move. This is the case for most of the people that work here at Logan. When I first heard the news of Logan closing, I cried. I just came back; I planned on retiring from here. I don't want to have to find another job, I'm too old to keep moving around, being a hairstylist I don't have a retirement. I am just getting it started now, how am I going to feed and cloth and house my children without this job? It was hard enough getting back on here in the first place. My husband and I rely on our jobs. As does everyone else here. Everyone here works hard. They all put in 110% every day. Some days 200%, its stressful its hot, its uncomfortable but I would not choose to work anywhere else. I LOVE LOGAN, I LOVE MY JOB, I LOVE MY WORK MATES. You are ruining so many people's lives with a flick of your pen because this won't affect you, only us. If you care at all you will not intentionally destroy 500 peoples lives and over a thousand of individuals that are incarcerated here.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this process.

Erin Hamilton

To whom it may Concern,

My name is Michelle Davidson and I work as a Correctional Casework Supervisor at Logan Correctional Center. I am writing to file a statement on my opposition to the relocation of Logan CC.

First, I want to say that I am personally someone who cannot relocate for work. I am currently being treated for cancer and I have friends and family who live locally helping with my care. My medical care team is located in St. Louis, MO, so moving north would put me even further from them.

Secondly, I would like to talk about the impact of this relocation on other staff and individuals in custody. The majority of the counties in Illinois are located nearer to Logan than Will county. Logan is currently the only women's facility that accepts maximum security individuals. If Logan was moved to Will county, this would put additional burden on jail staff and parole officers who

transport individuals to Logan. They would be driving even further, in many cases having a far enough drive that they would be getting overtime solely due to the length of the drive. The same situation would apply for transporting women from Will county to court writs in other counties.

While moving Logan to Will county may bring more opportunity for incarcerated women who are from the Chicago area to see their families, it would do the exact opposite for incarcerated women from many other counties. In addition, women in custody would have less opportunity to see their children in DCFS custody. DCFS has difficulty providing transportation to Logan as it is. So, bringing someone's child from further away would be even more burdensome.

Part of my current job is working closely with the pregnant individuals in custody to help them potentially have the child's father or another relative attend the child's birth should it happen during incarceration. Moving Logan further away from it's current location would impact many of these families and their ability to attend the birth in person. the Moms and Babies program at Decatur CC has eligibility criteria that excludes some women from the program, so it is not an option for all pregnant individuals in custody.

Finally, I want to say that closing Logan CC at its current location would have a great impact on the surrounding community. The people who work at Logan also live in the surrounding communities and provide economic support when they shop, when they eat and when they take part in other activities in the community.

In conclusion, rebuilding Logan CC at its current site or close by would be in the best interest of the community, staff and individuals in custody.

Michelle Davidson, LCPC
Correctional Casework Supervisor
Logan Correctional Center

Please do not close Logan Correctional Center. Lincoln took a tremendous hit when the Lincoln Developmental Center was closed. Our community can't stand another loss of this magnitude. Even though you see "Hiring" signs all over our community, most of these jobs are not ones that can support a growing family or provide a career with benefits for family security.

As you enter Lincoln via the first exit, you drive by the decay of the development center which has been left to ruin. Since we are on the "Route 66" history route, it is a very jarring and

painful reminder of the demise of communities like Lincoln. Lincoln needs this to remain the family community.

Sincerely,
Linda Leslie

I'm against the closure of Logan Correctional Center. Years of misappropriated funds and neglect from the State government has left Logan Correctional Center in its current state of rundown and disrepair. Staff and Individuals in Custody alike continue to make it known they are against moving the institution North to the new proposed location at Stateville Correctional Center. Many staff are worrying about how they will make money to feed their families and how long they may have travel to put a meal on the table. Correctional Staff/ State employees are expected to fill out paperwork highlighting the short comings and needs of repair to the institution and told we don't have the money or parts to get the things fixed.

The State wants to move the female population to Stateville Correctional Center after a rebuild. Logan Correctional Center has plenty of room for new buildings and rebuilding on current Logan Ground will cut down on the transportation costs moving individuals in Custody to a new location.

Dereck C Smith

I've been at Logan Correctional Center for ten years. I started my career with the Illinois Department of Corrections at this facility and have been with the individuals in custody for much of their time at Logan. To be with the department and work at Logan I moved an hour from my family and friends. I have spent countless hours, days, and months, away from my family due conflict of timing when I'm able to see them. Throughout the years we have been able to come to a schedule that works for all my family. If Logan were to relocate to northern Illinois, I would have to take a demotion to be an officer to stay in my home and avoid relocation. I've work hard to become a lieutenant and I thoroughly enjoy my career; I would lose what I've gained if Logan is to be moved. Further, if I had to relocate to maintain my title, I would have to move further from my family. This would cause unnecessary stress. Having said this, the individuals in custody would be forced to move further from their families. I have spoken with several of the individuals at Logan, many of whom are from central and southern Illinois. Moving them to northern Illinois would take them away from their children and families. Logan Correctional

Center is in central Illinois which allows all the individuals to have their families be able to visit with comfort. Several of the individuals I have spoken to who were transferred from Dwight Correctional Center don't want to go through a move again. Having said this, all the individuals I've spoken to, as well as staff, agree we could use a new prison for a better living and work environment.

Lastly, let's not forget the community. Most of the staff that work at Logan Correctional Center live within a one-to-two-hour drive from the facility. We come to Logan County and shop here, eat here, at times when necessary due to working numerous hours we may stay at a hotel here. Some of us have moved to Logan County which brings profit to the county. If Logan Correctional Center were to be closed, the county will take massive loss. Being that most of the staff reside within the two drive of Logan Correctional Center, other areas will be affected by the closure as well. Once again, Logan could use a new face but relocating the prison to the northern part of the state will negatively affect the individuals in custody, the staff and the surrounding communities.

Jennifer Singer

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is John Tierney, I am a 23-year Veteran of I.D.O.C. and I currently work at Logan Correctional Center. I am **Opposed** to the closure of Logan and the relocation to Northern Illinois. Relocating Logan prison would have significant ripple effects across various aspects of the local community and the lives of many individuals. The economic impact on Logan County, as well as the personal and logistical challenges for employees and families, cannot be overlooked. Additionally, the transportation logistics for individuals in custody and their visiting family members present substantial challenges that must be carefully considered in this decision-making process.

First off, the impact on employees and their families is a critical aspect that needs to be carefully considered. In the 15 March 2024, press release it states that Governor JB Pritzker "is committed to continuing to rebuild and strengthen our state's infrastructure." Infrastructure is defined as the basic physical systems of a business, region or nation that often provides the production of public goods or production processes. Within the last two years both Lincoln Christian University and Lincoln College has been shut down. Losing another major employer would be devastating to the community. Why can't it be rebuilt in its current location to strengthen the Central Illinois infrastructure?

Displacing/relocating an entire workforce, many of whom are likely have deep roots in the surrounding communities, would not only disrupt their livelihoods but also have broader implications for local economies, schools, and businesses. The prospect of uprooting families and relocating them to a different area can be incredibly challenging, both emotionally and practically. Balancing work and family life is already a challenge, and the prospect of becoming a weekend parent due to logistical constraints adds an extra layer of difficulty. Being present for important family activities and milestones is crucial for maintaining strong bonds and relationships. My wife's job requires that she live within commuting distance from Springfield, IL. It's crucial for decision-makers to understand the personal sacrifices and hardships that such a relocation would impose on employees and their families. It is unjust to ask employees to make such significant sacrifices. Decision-makers need to recognize the human cost of their decisions and consider alternative solutions that don't place such burden on employees and their families.

As far as the impact on my family and I will depend on a lot of "what if". I have had a diverse and accomplished career within the I.D.O.C I was an Officer for eighteen years, a Sergeant for over four years, and I am currently a B of I Tech (Bureau of Identification Technician). However, the potential relocation of Logan prison could have a negative impact on my career progression and professional development; not to mention there are only so many B of I spots within the State. If the women's prison were to move to Crest Hill, would the new facility retain a female R&C? Would the Logan B of I office transfer with the relocation or would we have priority placement to a new B of I position within the state? Will I be allowed to go back to my last certified title which was Sergeant? The implications of travel, accommodations, meals will add up quickly, especially if commuting and maintaining a separate residence.

Keeping a centrally located R&C facilities make the most logistical sense. Chestnut, Illinois is the Geographic Center of Illinois, which is 20 miles from the current Logan facility. Why move a facility that is already centrally located within the state? The logistics of transporting Individuals in Custody from their commuting Counties to a Northern facility would be immense. For instance, the distance and time required for travel, especially for County Sheriffs coming from Southern Illinois Counties to the R&C facility up north could be a 4 to 6 hours one way trip. That's an entire shift for one Deputy to travel round trip from one end of the state to the other and back again. This is not only a logistical nightmare but a safety concern as well.

Lastly, and probably most important to the political parties is the impact of moving Logan C.C. to Northern Illinois. Our current population of Individuals in Custody at Logan is comprised of more than 60% from Central and Southern Illinois. For years there has been transportation coordinated for northern families to visit the centrally located facility but nothing for the southern

families. Now you're asking many poverty-stricken families to travel 6-10 hours just to visit their Individuals in Custody.

Recommendation: Keep Logan C.C. is in desperate need of renovation. Our facility is already centrally located on state ground. We are set up like two city blocks, a high side, and a low side. They could close the high side off while the low side continues operations and tear down and make the needed infrastructure repairs and erect 2-3 X, or K style housing units that would double our space. Once the high side is complete the same could be done to the low side. This would meet the needs of the administration and the current employees of Logan C.C.

John Tierney

My husband has dedicated his time to work at the Logan Correctional facility for over 5 years now. I know this plan to close Logan will be bad for my family, the employees, and the Logan County region. We can't move to be near a different facility, and I don't want my husband having to drive 2 hours or more a day to work. His children need him at home more, not less. Most of the other locally located prisons are almost 2 hours away from our home. Lincoln prison is the only one close enough for him to transfer to and I know not all of Logan's employees will be able to transfer there. If he had to drive that much to a new facility elsewhere, it will cost us a lot more in gas and travel expenses, which is unfair and would more than likely cause a decline in our overall quality of life. It would be a shame for IDOC to lose hundreds of employees they have already spent thousands of dollars on training and who have done everything just to serve their state. Logan's employees depend on their jobs! They have lives and families to support; please don't let them close Logan.

I've been told Logan has plenty of good educational, vocational, drug treatment, and mental health programs. Logan is in a central region for amazing healthcare facilities in Peoria, Springfield, Bloomington, and Decatur. Losing Logan could potentially cause Memorial Health to close its sister facilities in Lincoln, due to losing residents. From what I understand Logan Correctional Center is a good location, but just needs some repairs and newer housing units built. Why can't it be built in the same place and IDOC avoid disrupting thousands of people's lives? I'm not writing about the lives of just the employees and their families, but did IDOC take into consideration the families of the people incarcerated at Logan? Did they consider how many of their families could have their lives disrupted? Central Illinois doesn't need another abandoned facility either! IDOC doesn't seem to have any good plan in place and has neglected to think about how this move would impact their employees, their families and the economy of Lincoln, IL. We go to Lincoln a lot just because it's where work is, if Logan closes then Lincoln won't

get our business. IDOC has neglected the fact that the closing of Logan could and would result in the loss of hundreds of employees causing them to spend even more money on training, hiring, and building an employee base that can run a full functioning facility.

I am asking COGFA to please take my statements into consideration while determining a recommendation. I want this process to be conducted fairly and for IDOC to care more for their employees than a few Cook County inmates or spending money in a community up north rather than investing in a community in central Illinois that needs economic stability. I appreciate your time in this matter and hope you save Logan!

Leah Williams

I've worked at Logan for almost 2 years. I have been worried about patients here due to the heat exposure and mold exposure and understaffing.

If the women at Logan were moved north, we may be able to attract more staff in addition to finding a location with more favorable health/environmental conditions.

Thank you,

Risha Fennell, MD, FASAM
Site Medical Director,
Logan Correctional Center

Dear Sir/Madam

It deeply saddens me that I have to write to you regarding the recent news of Governor's Pritzker's plans to move Logan Correctional Center from its current location in Logan County, Illinois, roughly 2 hours and 6 minutes North to Will County, Illinois. While I write to you not as a current department of corrections employee, or as even a state of Illinois employee but as a concerned Logan County community member.

While I can not understand Governor Prizkter's thoughts and views of "looking beyond prisons when promoting economic development in rural Illinois." I see it as so much more than just "a prison". Unfortunately, though with Illinois's current state of economy and its continuing lack to bring new opportunities of employment here we must depend on prisons for economic development in rural Illinois communities.

My family, which includes myself, my fiancé and our 2.5 year old son live and work here in Lincoln, Illinois. Neither my fiancé or myself are employed directly by the State of Illinois however the recent news of the closure of the state facility in Logan County worries and threatens our livelihood.

I am employed in the real estate title business. My fiancé is a mechanic here at a local dealership. I see how much both of our industries are greatly influenced and supported by those that are employed with the department of corrections. The Logan Correctional Center is a well paying job, one that doesn't necessarily require a college degree of education to obtain an entry level position. Corrections has always been look to as a career that offered advancements and longevity for its employees. With this career many are able to purchase first time homes for their families, investment properties and even rental real estate, all right here in Logan County. If Logan Correctional Center is no longer here in Logan County it will not only affect those currently employed there but it will also impact so many of us that work in fields that are vastly influenced from it. If there is no prison, then there are no officers and/or staff. If there is no prison, then is there no longer going to be as many real estate transactions here? I believe that number would drastically decrease. At least that is until after everyone sells because they are forced to relocate due to the closure. Or they are foreclosed on due to the closure and lack of /decrease in income, they are no longer able to live within the means they once lived within. I then ask myself, "why would someone buy here if there are no jobs to bring them here?" OR "there is no longer a need for someone to buy here if the prison housing their loved ones while incarcerated isn't located here"

The second income in our household, is my fiancé who is a mechanic here in Lincoln. The Logan Correctional Center vans, cars, and transport vehicles are serviced through his employer. Yes, while you might ask yourself "LCC can't be the only business they have, others are also having services completed there." "They have other customers." and to this I will agree, the DOC vehicles aren't the only customer's. However, customers ALSO include Logan Correctional Center officers and/or staff and their families. These aren't limited to the service department either. All departments are frequented by LCC employees and their families.

My concern in writing to you is the huge contribution that LCC employees and their families make to the economic development that is our community. While my household does not receive a paycheck directly from Logan Correctional Center, my household still very much depends on its revenue spent by the employees. These staff members build lives here in our community. They spend money in our community. Their kids go to school here. They pay local taxes, frequent local shops, and restaurants. Which all contribute to so many of our livelihoods, in all different ways.

We can not have Logan Correctional Center be rebuilt anywhere BUT here in Logan County. Infrastructure and good paying jobs need to be offered ALL over Illinois, not just in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. Downstate Illinois matters, too.

KEEP LOGAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER IN LOGAN COUNTY!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Malorie Gleason

To whom it may concern,

My name is Martha Simmons, I am a Logan Correctional Center employee, a Logan County resident.

I am writing to express my strong opposition of closing Logan Correctional Center and moving it out of Logan County. I do agree that there does need to be a new facility built, but not out of Logan County. The state of Illinois needs to do the **RIGHT** thing and rebuild Logan Correctional Center right **HERE** in **Logan County**. I would like to take this opportunity to give some important reasons why Logan Correctional Center should stay in Logan County.

One very good reason would be the whole community that is Logan County. Logan County deserves to have good paying jobs available. Most recently the community has lost Lincoln College, and Lincoln Christian University. Not that long ago Lincoln lost Lincoln Developmental Center. People left our community then. Once again Logan County is being told it will lose another 500 jobs. A job lose of this size will mean some that call Logan County home will no longer be part of Logan County. Another direct loss of these 500 jobs the community will lose some, maybe possibility all services that are publicly funded. The very services that are vital for a big portion of Logan community residents. Anyone who depend on publicly funded services will be affected. Guess what that means all 27, 987 (per 2020 census) of us. All of us depend on services like fire/rescue/police, they do receive some funding from public dollars. Public dollars that are calculated on things like census numbers. Services like meals on wheels, public transportation that is provided by CAPCIL. Everything and everyone that counts on receiving monies based on Logan County's population numbers will be affected either directly or indirectly by this loss of these 500 jobs. Are you thinking how is this possible when only 500 jobs are at stake? Imagine a community with a population, the same size as more than a couple Logan County towns put together, no longer existing in Logan County. It is not fair, and certainly not even remotely a good sound decision to disrupt an economy/community that is fragile already.

Martha Simmons

**John Howard Association Testimony
Proposal to Close and Rebuild Stateville and Logan Correctional Centers
Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
May 10, 2024**

The John Howard Association (JHA) is the only independent, not for profit, not partisan, citizen correctional oversight organization in Illinois. JHA monitors Illinois' prisons by going into them to observe conditions and speak with staff, administrators and people who are incarcerated, and by conducting system wide surveys and receiving information from directly impacted people. JHA's work increases system transparency, identifies issues and puts forward recommendations for reform in order to improve conditions of confinement, treatment inside prisons, outcomes upon release and public safety for our communities.

Governor Pritzker's [announcement](#) on March 15, 2024 to shutter Logan and Stateville in order to rebuild them new recognizes that these prisons are decrepit, unsafe and inhumane. Recognizing that both Logan and Stateville are not fit for human habitation represents an important step towards respecting the dignity and rights of people who are incarcerated and those who work inside. Rethinking our carceral environments in order to move towards smaller, more rehabilitative spaces that will provide people with individualized help and treatment and reduce the suffering and trauma so often experienced in our current prisons is necessary. JHA notes, however, that this plan does not address the fact that the Illinois prisons are currently well under capacity, with close to 12,000 excess prison beds throughout the system, and that there is opportunity to also permanently close some of our worst prisons, to be rid of some of the most appalling living and working conditions people experience in Illinois and provide significant financial savings.

The [Facility Master Plan Report](#) (CGL report), commissioned by the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) authored by an independent consultant, and published in 2023 laid bare the unsuitable, unsafe and inhumane conditions that exist at Logan and Stateville, as well as at many other Illinois prisons. For years JHA had advocated for such realities to be evaluated and made public as we saw and heard of the extreme deprivation and decrepitude people in IDOC faced every day. According to the report, billions of dollars are required to address the ravages of excessive deferred maintenance in IDOC prisons, many of which - including Logan and Stateville - are beyond fixing and can never be made to be appropriate spaces to treat, rehabilitate or house people in custody.

Most of Illinois' prisons were built before the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) became law, making them out of compliance with legal safeguards that should be provided to every person and in violation of the civil rights of people who suffer because of this. This is particularly problematic with the increasingly vulnerable, aged and infirmed population. Wheelchairs and assistive devices cannot be accommodated, establishing sight lines and protections to stop or deter sexual victimization is not possible, and beyond these issues are the horrible conditions people incarcerated in these prisons contend with every day; black mold, poor ventilation, discolored, odorous, and particle filled water in cells and showers, water damage that leads to ceilings and floors collapsing, roofs caving in,

infestations of rodents and vermin, and sewage and sanitation system failures, all of which impact the safety, health and well-being of the people who live and work inside the prisons.

It is long past time that Logan and Stateville be depopulated and demolished. In 2023, women at Logan who responded to a JHA survey commented that *“our water has legionella, our showers, have leeches, our housing units have black mold & asbestos, The housing units are falling in on us”* and that, *“Every day, all day, we breathe BLACK MOLD, ASBESTOS, AND COAL DUST”*. According to the CGL Report, “[o]ur review found the existing Logan Correctional Center to be inefficient, ineffective, and unsuitable for any population. The aging coal-fired power system, molding housing units, and facility layout all work in opposition to the mission and goals of the facility. IDOC should find a more suitable location for housing its incarcerated women.” (pg. 7)

Conditions at Stateville are similarly horrible; in assessing this prison as part of the CGL Report, it was found that, “[i]n addition to the extremely poor conditions throughout the facility (peeling paint, leaking roofs) the facility’s 100 year old design is reflective of 1800’s prison philosophy, with multitiered housing units. These units are poor for a maximum custody population, but even worse for a multi-custody re-entry mission. The units lack dayroom space or any adjacent program space. Cells are small and there is limited electrical connections resulting in extension cords ran from cell to cell. Due to limited line-of-sight, an intensive level of staffing is necessary to adequately supervise these units. Maintaining a constant ambient temperature is nearly impossible from the lower tier to the upper tier. Shower facilities are poor and create PREA issues. Overall, the facility can’t comply with ADA requirements” (pg. 46). JHA recently released an [updated facility report](#) on Stateville where we noted that conditions continue to deteriorate, and people continue to report concerns about water quality and the presence of bird feathers and feces in living units, among other unsafe and unhygienic concerns present in this environment. In response to JHA surveys at Stateville in 2023, people incarcerated wrote that *“Stateville should be overhauled or closed. No hot water for the past two months, legionella bacteria in our drinking water supply, also lead was found... infestation of roaches and spiders. I sleep with roaches crawling all in my bed and I keep myself and my cell clean.”* And that *“The drinking water is contaminated; people are developing cancer here at an alarming rate; the air circulation is very poor and we are developing upper respiratory problems from breathing in entirely too much dust/other unknown air pollutants on a daily basis for years on end; Black mold inside cells; very bad roach and mouse infestation”*.

The plans put forth by IDOC and filed with the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accounting (CGFA) for both [Stateville](#) and [Logan](#) acknowledge the current state of disrepair evidenced in each facility, and call for new facilities that comport with correctional practices that recognize the importance of providing people in custody with the tools for change and rehabilitation. This includes improved living conditions, space for programming and treatment, smaller facilities, space for support system visits and reunification, access to community resources, including personnel and program opportunities, and recognizing the need to keep people closer to their communities and loved ones to foster these important relationships.

We cannot continue to pour hundreds of millions of dollars into structures that should not house people in such conditions in the first place. No one would build the structures that make up Stateville, Pontiac, or Menard in the modern era, not for maximum security incarcerated people, not for any human to live or work in. As detailed in the CGL Report, as well as in texts that chart the history of incarceration in the United States, “the multi-tier housing units still in use at these facilities are reflective of the predominate correctional philosophy that existed during their construction [1871-1925] This philosophy centered on isolation where Inmates

would spend their evenings in silence in their cell and work during the day. Little, if any space was needed for programming or out-of-cell time.” (pg. 15) We know that such isolated confinement is harmful to people in itself, without adding the poor physical conditions many also endure. Given our modern understanding of the trauma and damage inflicted by these out of date and cruelly designed structures, we must not continue to invest in them.



PHOTO # 1 & 2 – View of Catwalk Level Enclosure & Gallery from Ground Floor

[Photo from p. 253 of IDOC’s COGFA Stateville submission]

While the design of Logan is not as visually arresting, with poor visibility in housing units, ceilings caving in, and rodent feces on ceilings and walls it is hardly less problematic. The CGL report noted that their review, “found the existing Logan Correctional Center to be inefficient, ineffective, and unsuitable for any population. The aging coal-fired power system, molding housing units, and facility layout all work in opposition to the mission and goals of the facility.” (pg. 106)

The plans call for both facilities to be rebuilt in Crest Hill, where Stateville is currently located, and approximately 150 miles from where Logan is currently located. Relocating Logan to be closer to Cook County makes sense, given that approximately [34% of women](#) in IDOC custody are from Cook and the surrounding counties. The other women’s prison is located in Decatur, which is in Central Illinois and approximately 36 miles from where Logan is currently located. Having a women’s facility in the Northern part of the State facilitates visitation, family reunification, and the building and maintenance of support systems. The impact studies attached to IDOC’s filed plan with CGFA note that Crest Hill has a growing population, which should positively impact staffing levels at these facilities, while the area surrounding Logan is experiencing population decline. Another important factor in location is the ability to bring programming into the facilities, Crest Hill benefits from its proximity to Chicago and the many

schools nearby; Stateville currently has more post-secondary programs than any other facility in Illinois.

It is critical that stakeholder input is considered as rebuilding plans commence. This includes community members, staff, administrators, people who are formerly and currently incarcerated, advocacy groups, law-makers, and other people impacted by and involved with the criminal justice system. The grim realities of our current prisons should be used to inform future plans in order to avoid mistakes of the past. Where prisons are located, proximity to support systems and community resources, size of the environment, specific features of living and common spaces, including visiting, program and treatment areas, and updated technological infrastructure are some of the important features facilities should have to focus on rehabilitation, provide a safe environment for the people that live and work in them, and respect human dignity.

Another concern around rebuilding these facilities in Crest Hill is that Stateville is adjacent to federally designated and protected wetlands, which are home to at least seven endangered species. Respecting this ecosystem is of utmost importance. At the same time that this natural resource must be protected, plans must also ensure that there is access to clean and safe water for the facilities, and that new, functional sanitation systems are installed. According to the Environmental Impact Study included with IDOC's April 26, 2024 submission to CGFA the State owns approximately 1,000 acres in the area where Stateville is currently situated.¹ This should provide ample space to figure out how to better situate smaller more humane functional prison facilities as needed.

We can reduce our reliance on incarceration and close the most inhumane prisons, while also considering new ways to house people that are safe, rehabilitative, and recognize and respect those who live and work inside our prisons. If the goal of incarceration as stated in the Illinois Constitution is to return people to useful citizenry², facilities should be small, humane, program focused, fully staffed, and located close to community resources and the communities from which people in custody come. Illinois cannot continue to house and employ people in prisons that pose a danger to everyone inside of them due to degraded and hazardous conditions, the costs are too high when measured in dollars, morality and our humanity.

In addition to infrastructure problems and the high cost of addressing them, the staffing crisis plaguing IDOC, and the rest of the United States, is another reason it is time to repurpose, consolidate, and close prisons.³ In COGFA filings, IDOC reported nearly a third of their positions vacant. A situation that is even worse at many prisons, and even more dire for prison healthcare providers. It is difficult to reduce the number of staff needed without reducing facility size or number.⁴ As it stands, people in IDOC spend the vast majority of their time in their cells in lockdown conditions, exacerbating all issues facilities face and making life worse for both the people who are incarcerated and work in them. Not only does the staffing deficit impact quality of life, it costs the State several million dollars every month in overtime expenses.⁵

¹ April 26, 2024, submission to CGFA by IDOC, Attachment C, Environmental Impact Study, pg. 296, <https://cgfa.ilga.gov/upload/Stateville%20Recommendation%20Combined%20for%20Web.pdf>

² Illinois State Constitution, Section 11, [https://www.ilga.gov/commission/lrb/con1.htm#:~:text=the%20same%20offense,-\(Source%3A%20Illinois%20Constitution.\),blood%20or%20forfeiture%20of%20estate](https://www.ilga.gov/commission/lrb/con1.htm#:~:text=the%20same%20offense,-(Source%3A%20Illinois%20Constitution.),blood%20or%20forfeiture%20of%20estate).

³ Gabriel Petek, *The 2023-24 Budget: The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation*, (Feb. 2023) <https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2023/4686/CDJR-Budget-021623.pdf> (analyzing California prisons: “most staffing costs... are only saved when capacity is reduced”).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Illinois Department of Corrections testimony, Illinois Senate Public Safety Appropriations Hearing, April 16, 2024

As IDOC has struggled to staff all prisons it has not had the ability to concentrate resources and focus on a vision for the future given lack of visibility and attention, political and administrative turnover, the COVID-19 pandemic, and dealing with crisis after crisis not just within the population but in relation to emergency facility repairs, contractual issues, and the burnout such situations induce. Evidence and experience demonstrate that facilities such as Kewanee that are smaller and purpose driven do better in a variety of ways, including retaining staff, reducing burnout and overall outcomes.

Massive investments are needed to repair IDOC infrastructure problems, facility consolidation, repurposing and closures mitigate the costs associated with addressing the enormous infrastructure needs of the system. Total deferred maintenance for IDOC currently sits at over \$2.6 billion, nearly a third of all deferred maintenance for State facilities.⁶ Infrastructure costs will only increase absent closures. The amount of deferred maintenance in IDOC has increased each of the last four Fiscal Years, and IDOC has led state agencies in deferred maintenance each of those years.⁷ There are also ongoing class-action lawsuits concerning infrastructure problems at Stateville⁸ and the Stateville Northern Reception Center.⁹

To mitigate these truly enormous capital costs, and improve conditions and safety for people who are incarcerated and corrections staff throughout IDOC, Illinois must reevaluate not only our use of facilities but our policies governing sentencing, early/earned release, medical clemency, housing for aging individuals in state custody which increases the costs of incarceration due to needed care¹⁰, as well as the other laws and tactics that have fueled mass incarceration and led us to our current untenable situation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Vollen-Katz, Executive Director
John Howard Association of Illinois
70 East Lake Street, Suite 410
Chicago, IL 60601
jvollen@thejha.org, (331)264-4081

⁶ See *Illinois State Capital Budget*, Fiscal Year 2024
<https://budget.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/budget/documents/budget-book/fy2024-budget-book/Fiscal-Year-2024-Capital-Budget.pdf>, pg 36.

⁷ See *Illinois State Capital Budget*, Fiscal Year 2024, p. 37
<https://budget.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/budget/documents/budget-book/fy2024-budget-book/Fiscal-Year-2024-Capital-Budget.pdf>, .

⁸ See *Dobbey v. Weilding*, <https://clearinghouse.net/case/17473/>

⁹ See *Shipp v. Gomez*, <https://www.uplchicago.org/what-we-do/prison/shipp-v-gomez.html>

¹⁰ It costs over twice as much to house an elderly prisoner in comparison to younger prisoners according to the National Institute of Justice (See *Addressing the Needs of Elderly, Chronically Ill, and Terminally Ill Inmates*, <https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/Library/018735.pdf>).

5-13-24
Hello my name Irenia ANN COTNER
R80749 I been in IDOC since
12/21/06 I been detain since 8-30-05
under the Accountability law, since
being in prison I have went to
School, been in Alot and many
programs, and I have Always had
work assignments since Dwight CC,
I been to Wells treatment in Dwight
CC, In Kocwa CC, work assignments,
School, A.B.E. Trying to raise Take
Score, because I am payed Restict
on State pay. Dued to My hearing
Dib-able, I havenot been able to
pass the Take Test. Just took it
Again 5-7-24 This My 4th Time Take
Test here. I been in Special Ed, Classes
in School since 1st Grade, I am
hearing Impaired, in left ear since
birth, now I wear two hearing Aids.
I had law Clerks do all my legal
Paper works, I am A first Time
Offender, I have only been in
what they call The hole as of Seg-
for petty Charges, mainly, not
beable to hear Co's Orders.
I am Under The Accountability
Charge Only.

1st Degree Murder, Consp to Commit
Murder, I was Sentence 60 Yrs -
by Judge Dunn, (Retired now) State
offer the 16 Yrs - in A four Day
Jury Trial Oct 23rd 2006 - Oct 26th 2006
I Refused because I was not Guilty
of this, I did not know, or ever seen
the ~~VICTIMS~~^{VICTIMS} I was Accused of.
I, Nor my, Witnesses were not
allowed to take the Witnesses
Stand. So Jury have no Choice
but to find ME Guilty. because
Defense did not Speak. I filed
Final Judgements, from 2007 - All deny.
(to 2022) So, I filed A Executive
Clemency Dec 2021) It Got on the
July 2022 docket, Docket # 38164,
I then filed A Post-conviction Under
the Accountability Law - SAFE-T ACT
10/12/2023, And been on Zoom Court
Apr 18 - 2024) Feb 2nd 2024) And Donot
have A Lawyer or Public Defender,
Judge Vaughn A New Judge was
trying to find me A Public Defender.
The Accountability Law Stated You
Must not had been At the Crime
or Act in the Crime, which I was
no where I around I have

have witnesses whom can prove that
without a reasonable doubt, now keep
in mind everyone of the state witnesses,
had something to gain, for being on the
witnesses stand, either making deals,
with state, all charges pending against
Jackie Jackson, dropped by state.

but above all everyone of them
wanted to get back at me & of the
four of the co-defendants did not like
me, Gangloff, & Eck, which are both out
on the street, Wolfe had a motive, she
did not want me, back with my ex
or my boyfriend Mike, and she was
very un-happy when my dad caught
David Linder, Wolfe boyfriend of
4 days, getting drugs from Jackie
Jackson, Linder & David Linder, and
Jackie Jackson both worked for my
dad, my dad fired both of them,
he told me when I got back from
Oklahoma City, that Brent, and I
was to take Linder back to St.
Louis MO, 8-23-2005 At (6:00 AM.)
Linder brought in the Jackson
House, for drugs, now what been
said Jackie Jackson, owed a drug

Wolfe was ^{with}

dealer in St. Louis MO. And if I or my witnesses would have gotten to take The Stand. I would not be in Prison Today. I had A Iron Clad (Alibi) Wolfe was Very Upset With ME, That's why she turned State too. So The Reason why I believe I Should be Sought for Release, is due to Overcrowding of Logan Correctional Center. The Prison Can hardly feed us, All, Cannot Cloth US all, Birds in Chaw hall, Black Mold, Toxic in The Water, Housing units falling Apart Bathroom leaking water all The floor, UN-Staffed, lockdown Mails backed up Sometimes don't get A Mail bag, for house, Hu 6 Suppose ADA, Medical, dis-able, Eldery, And If not, There ABBRESSIVE levels. And K.S.F. Fights over here All The time, Hearing Impaired Cannot use the phone, A lot of Staff Conduct going on. Other Housing units just walking on other houses, like Hu 6 5-11-24) from Hu 8) It Awful Dayroom N-wing) South wing Gates Always open, It not safe since Cj's have heard About The closing of Logan Correctional Center.

So The Only STAFF taking Care of Issues
When You Write them are The Warden.

They Get the Job done, My Medical
HCU, doesnot Know Why Iam haveing
nose bleeds on going since (2019)

The HCU, doesnot Care for All our
Medical Needs, ADA Person doesnot
take Care of ADA*ADA/Hearing Impaired
Needs. HCU ADM-doesnot take Care of
The Patients that Are on (Hule) That Are
In Custintence, And phycially Therapy
doesnot make the women Get up out
Wheel Chairs (that walk) Neglect of them.
They Set in Solid in dispers, Their Women
Got Open Sores, ADA Arenot CNA but
Which Are ADA but Certified OR Proper
Training. Trans Gender beating up
Women being ABgressive toward the
Women, and Sexual Mis-Conduct Several
times. So This is not A Safe Environment
for Individual IN Custody. That Are Sentence
to A long time, to be in prison. Iam in hope
That My letter Will inspire Many Release
Women, of inmates, that Are first time offenders)
And have A outdate on paper. Dued to
The Closing of Logan Correctional Center
Thank You for your time Treenia Cotner
R807496-N-11

Ms. Vivian Mitchell R79013
Logan Correctional Center
P.O. Box 1000
Lincoln, IL 62656

5-13-24

Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
Attn: Facility Closure
802 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62756

Dear Sir,

Logan Correctional Center
need to be closed; There is
black mold in the Gym building
and Library at the Vocational
Center. There is toxins (feces)
in the water. The women's bath
room on unit 6 North wing
fluds.

Unit 6 is suppose to be only

ADA, disable and Medical needs living on unit 6. There are ex-ADAs who quit or was fired from their jobs and now work at other jobs: Commissary dorm specialists, porters on other units.

I have been incarcerated for 20 years. I have done enough time in prison. I should be released. The prison is over crowded. And I am rehabilitated. I have earned many certificates. Please release me from prison. I am 60 years old.

Sincerely,

Vivian Mitchell

Julia Gutierrez Y21292

Logan Correctional Center

Opponent of closing

May 10, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an inmate at Logan Correctional Center. I have been here 7 years and have 14 more to go. I have always felt very blessed to be at this location. The grounds are beautiful + well kept with lots of beautiful flowers. Our houses are so good + sturdy brick buildings with nice floors, adequate bathrooms, and a nice big dayroom with real chairs - not just metal tables with metal seats. I love having windows that open so we can get a breeze and hear the birds. I don't care for air conditioning - I'd take windows any day. We get to walk to meals, passes, groups, and jobs. We have a super big yard with baseball, sand volleyball, a track for walking + tennis courts. We have lovely patios that we can enjoy every day. One very big positive is that we are not locked into our rooms but are free to go to the bathroom for toilets and showers. I very much dislike having a toilet in my room.

We have a good healthcare center, good program center, good cafeteria + adequate library.

I understand the old buildings have some issues but noting that can't be addressed. I don't feel that my health is in jeopardy.

We get over 4 hours of dayroom every day. I don't know how people handle being locked in a little cell for 23 hrs a day. I hope I don't have to find out. It seems inhumane.

I work in our big vegetable garden. We have over 3 acres in veggies. I love it. At home I always had a garden and I did gardening for people as well. It brings me such a feeling of freedom and happiness. We also supply the kitchen with lots of good fresh food.

Please, please reconsider and keep us here in our houses at Logun.

Very Sincerely,

Julie Antierney

5-13-24

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you concerning the closing of Logan Women Division.

I am praying you may be able to help the ladies that are elderly, sickly and have done half of their time. There are alot of women in here that have health issues that are not being taken care of properly, due to the fact that they cannot keep doctors, nurses or any medical personal for a long period of time.

I have been incarcerated for 19 years since than I have been in and out of the hospital within the last 2 years at least 8 times and not counting all the emergency visits to receive blood and iron transfusions. I have filed twice for the Joe Coleman Medical release but have been denied, did a clemency and has been sitting on gouvors desk for 3 years. I have many health issues that have not been addressed. I need 2 knee replacements, a hip replacement and a wire put on my pacemaker. I have specialist that I go to for my heart, stomach, my melanoma. I am 67 years old and have many children as well as grandchildren that are willing to support me and take care of my medical needs.

I am praying you would be able to help the elderly to get out before we die in here from the conditions of this facility. The water, black mold, as well as asbestos. Most of this facility is not safe

for humans to live in.

Please help the elderly instead of letting
the young ones who keep coming back.

Thank You

God Bless

Janet Yunes R 86711

P.O. Box 1000

Lexicon, IL 62650

May 12, 2024

R.E. Logan Correctional Center

I am 65 year old female inmate at Logan Correctional Center at Lincoln Illinois.

I am first time offender, charged with First degree murder, sentenced to 30 yrs at 100%. At the time of my crime I had been subjected to domestic abuse for 25 years at the hands of my then husband.

I was allowed to be examined by Psychiatrist who diagnosed me as suffering from domestic abuse as well as PTSD.

My presiding judge refused to allow said Psychiatrist to testify on my behalf and as such no evidence for my defense was allowed.

I was sentenced to serve 30 years and began sentence at Juvet Correctional in March 2011. In March 2013 Juvet was closed

due to deteriorating conditions of buildings, and entire female population was moved to Logan Correctional Center.

Since March 2013 there has been ever increasing issues with Logan Correctional Center.

Health care has slowly become harder to obtain. The nursing staff is constantly changing and majority of staff doesn't believe any complaints an inmate has.

We have problems with keeping doctors and Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants. It is hard to get prescriptions refilled in timely manner.

Eye doctor and dentist are very hard to get in to see. Meanwhile vision issues and teeth problems grow worse and often can't be fixed.

Health problems aren't tended to in a timely manner. Resulting

in additional problems.

I have C.O.P.D, Fibromyalgia, Neuropathy, Arthritis, Cataracts, hearing loss that I have had serious problems being addressed. I have been experiencing heart issues that need evaluation from outside health providers.

Also there are various concerns over safety here in Logan Correctional. The high aggression levels are being placed along with lower aggression levels. Many inmates are faced with intense levels of bullying and intimidation from other high aggressive individuals.

Inmates can't go to Correctional Officers for problems as said Officers are not concerned nor do they care for safety of individuals. Officers are more concerned with finding employment elsewhere. Counselors have no options

other than dropping a request to Internal Affairs or even Warden.

Internal Affairs offer no assistance when inmate is facing problems concerning other inmate. Often - Internal Affairs will tell other inmate the name of individual who has voiced concern.

Thus what should have been confidentiality is broken and result is worse problem for inmate.

The condition of living facilities are very bad. There is black mold everywhere. Bathrooms have standing pools of water from leaking pipes. Tiles in bathroom are missing and black mold is seen on tile, tile grout, floors, ceilings and fixtures. Even the individual cells have black mold on walls. There is

visible black mold on flooring of each housing unit. Due to age of each housing unit, the interior wall structure is shifting which causes great difficulty in opening and closing each cell door.

There are places in housing units where drywall of ceiling has fell onto floor.

The power source is at times unpredictable due to old wiring and receptables.

We aren't given proper diets from kitchen. Majority of meals we are given child size portions. There are most meals with beans and or rice. Many inmates have health issues that require special diets but health care doesn't care nor does dietary personnel.

As a 66 yr old inmate with health problems, I

have served almost half of my sentence, I feel that considering my age and that I am first time offender, that I should be allowed to be released due to inability of IDOC to provide adequate and safe conditions during my incarceration.

In addition the facility has had serious problems with contaminated drinking water which will have serious health issues for everyone in the future.

I sincerely hope you can consider my problems and let me be considered for early release. I do have a secure parole site waiting for my release.

Thank You
Myra L. Osborne R86898
Logan Correctional Center
P.O. Box 1000
Lincoln, Illinois 62656

TO: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure.
802 Stratton Building.
Springfield, IL 62706

From: Carmen G. Stenmark #37534
Logan C.C. 2-S-14 P.O. Box 1000
Lincoln, IL 62656

Regarding: May 14, 2024.

- Facility Being Closed: Logan Women C.C.
- Individual in Custody ID# 437534.
- I am opposing the closing of Logan.
- I am from Southern Illinois - Carbondale - Jackson County.
My family are advanced in age and for them to travel more than 3-3.5 hr to see me would be difficult. As it is Logan C.C. is in the middle of the state and it is convenient and fair for those in the South and those in the North areas to travel and visit with their loved ones.
- Here at Logan C.C. we have an excellent Mental Health Program. Our grounds are beautiful and well maintained. Furthermore our facility here at Logan C.C. are sturdy brick buildings that can be remodeled and fixed. As a matter of fact there is some remodeling and constructions on unit #9 as we speak.
I know we are in prison and it should not be comfortable but we are humans too despite the crimes we committed and this place - Logan Women C.C. has a home atmosphere.
I would very much like to remain here at Logan for the remaining of my sentence + 9 years.

Thank you and God bless you all!

Carmen G. Stenmark.

P.S. please excuse my misspells English not my 1st language.

May 13, 2024

Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
802 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Angela Wells B36962
Logan Correctional Center
Apponent

The type of Testimony I would
like to give: Written Statement Filed

I am writing on behalf of the
Closing of Logan Correctional
Center. My name is Angela Wells
B36962. I am a First-Time
offender with a First Degree
Murder charge. I have
an 2022 Executive Clemency
in that is sitting on the Governor
Desk. I feel that most time

2)

Offender should be released if they have been a productive member of society.

To date I have served 23 years of my 40 year sentence.

I have completed a lot of education with degrees and behavior modification for 10 years. I worked as a Law Clerk for 12 years I was in Dwight CC 10 in Logan C.C.

I don't want to be moved to another prison. I should be released back into society. I have earned my way just look at my Master Bill. It speaks for itself. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted
Angela Wells
R36962