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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

August 3, 2023

The Honorable Lee Fowler  
Fifth Judicial District, Lyon County Courthouse  
430 Commercial  
Emporia, KS 66801

Dear Judge Fowler:

Pursuant to provisions of K.S.A. 21-6822, I am hereby informing the Kansas Sentencing Commission of the current number of Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) residents as of July 31, 2023.

This summer, thanks to the support of Governor Laura Kelly and the Kansas Legislature to increase employee compensation, we appear to be more competitive in the labor market. From May 1<sup>st</sup> (374) to July 31<sup>st</sup> (269) we have seen a 28% decline in vacancies associated with uniformed officer positions serving in adult correctional facilities.

This is indeed good news! We are grateful for the support from State leaders and welcome these critically needed new team members to our workforce. And we are hopeful this trend will continue, which if it does, our priorities will be to end scheduled 12-hour shifts at our Lansing and El Dorado facilities that have been necessary for over two years; fully staff currently operating living units; and open the remodeled Lansing X Unit for substance abuse treatment and work release. Then, if the population in adult facilities continues to rise, begin to reopen the 1,582 beds in housing units that are currently closed.

To provide the most accurate representation of the current capacity of our facilities, we have included two data tables. One that recipients of this letter are accustomed to seeing reflecting bed capacity, which is the number of physical beds that exist in KDOC adult facilities compared to the current population. And a second table, reflecting our staffed capacity after having previously closed multiple units due to vacancy rates being experienced by our agency. It is this second table that most accurately reflects the current capacity for housing the incarcerated population in our facilities. Both tables are based upon the Kansas Sentencing Commission's recently published *FY 2023 Prison Population Projections Report*.

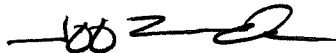
	KDOC Bed Capacity	July 31, 2023 Actual Population	July 31, 2023 Percentage of Bed Capacity	FY2023 Projected Population	FY2023 Projected to Exceed Capacity by	FY2032 Projected Population	FY2032 Projected to Exceed Capacity by
Male	9668	8180	85%	7933	-1735	8564	-1104
Female	932	768	82%	764	-168	789	-143
Total	10600	8948	84%	8697	-1903	9353	-1247

	<b>KDOC Staffed Capacity</b>	<b>July 31, 2023 Actual Population</b>	<b>July 31, 2023 Percentage of Staffed Capacity</b>	<b>FY2023 Projected Population</b>	<b>FY2023 Projected to Exceed Staffed Capacity by</b>
<b>Male</b>	8195	8180	100%	7933	-262
<b>Female</b>	932	768	82%	764	-168
<b>Total</b>	9127	8948	98%	8697	-430

We also continued to utilize up to 4 beds for women at the Larned State Hospital given the very specialized nature of that facility and did not utilize our contracts with jails for housing. This resulted in all residents who are sentenced to KDOC being housed in State of Kansas facilities.

I hope that the above information is helpful to the work of the Kansas Sentencing Commission. And I look forward to continuing to work with you and the other members on the important topic of prison populations.

Sincerely,



Jeff Zmuda  
Secretary of Corrections

cc: Governor Laura Kelly  
 Scott Schultz, Executive Director, Kansas Sentencing Commission  
 Senator Rick Billinger, Chair, Senate Ways & Means Committee  
 Senator Kellie Warren, Chair, Senate Judiciary  
 Representative Troy Waymaster, Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
 Representative Stephen Owens, Chair, House Corrections & Juvenile Justice  
 Representative Avery Anderson, Chair, House Transportation & Public Safety