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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GAIL McCANN BEATTY
MINORITY LEADER
District 26

Governor-Elect Eric Greitens
301 West High Street, Room 870A
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

December 13, 2016

Dear Governor-Elect Greitens,

In light of the egregious events recently reported to have taken place within the Missouri Department of Corrections, on behalf of the Missouri House Democratic Caucus, I implore your office to initiate a nationwide search for a new director in order to eliminate the deplorable behavior by some of the department's correctional officers and foster a new culture of inclusiveness, professionalism and ethics.

The events reported in various news outlets over the past weeks detail the "psyche-destroying" work environment in which a number of correctional officers find themselves. The department has been named in more than sixty lawsuits (with even more cases pending approval from the Missouri Commission on Human Rights) in which employees allege having been subjected to humiliation, groping, poisoning, repeated sexual comments, threats, physical assault, and pressure from supervisors and co-workers to engage in sexual activities. The specific comments and actions endured by some department employees are too inappropriate, offensive, and lewd to include in this letter. No employee of the state of Missouri should be subjected to such disgusting language and behavior.

These offensive, unacceptable incidents have cost Missourians millions of their taxpayer dollars. From 2012 to 2016, the department has paid approximately \$7.5 million to settle harassment claims from the state's legal expense fund. This is an unacceptable waste of taxpayers' dollars, or to quote attorney Rod T. Chapel, Jr.: "The legal expense fund should not be a slush fund to pay millions and millions of dollars for bad behavior." During a fiscal year in which our state is experiencing significant budget shortfalls, taxpayers' should not be on the hook to pay out millions to settle harassment claims. These dollars are better spent on projects that improve our economy, increase job growth, and repair the state's crumbling infrastructure.

As part of your campaign platform, you asserted a commitment to rooting out corruption in Jefferson City. If we want to move Missouri forward and end the culture of corruption and harassment, both parties must work together.



Cleaning up the Missouri Department of Corrections is of immediate importance, and the best way to halt the spread of corrupt behavior is to start at the top; therefore, we call upon your administration to begin a nationwide search for a new department director, one with a proven track record of rooting out corruption. Please let my office know how we can continue to be helpful in this shared effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gail McCann Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gail McCann Beatty
House Minority Floor Leader
District 26