

# State of Connecticut

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### JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

September 25, 2007

Commissioner Theresa Lantz  
24 Wolcott Hill Road  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Dear Commissioner Lantz:

We have scheduled an emergency meeting of the Judiciary Committee for Monday, October 1, 2007 at 12:00 p.m. in Room 2C of the L.O.B. in order to receive a briefing regarding the Governor's plan to end parole release for violent offenders and to release non-violent offenders early in order to make room for violent offenders.

The Governor has declined our invitation to meet with the committee. In the absence of her participation in our consideration of these issues, can you attend on behalf of the Administration and answer the committee's many questions on the details of the Governor's plan? Hearing directly for you or from the Governor is the most efficient way for us to understand what needs to be done in order to resolve this emergency.

In particular, the committee would like to know whether you anticipate there will be a surge in inmate population. We also want to know what the contingency plans the Governor has to protect corrections staff and host communities in the event there is a population surge beyond what can be safely accommodated in Connecticut's correctional institutions.

The Governor has implied that her ban on parole of violent offenders is temporary. On Friday, she stated: "This policy, which follows the arrest Friday of a Connecticut parolee accused in Hartford carjacking, will remain in place until reforms of the parole process are complete."

We also need to know what reforms of the parole process the Governor believes must be enacted by legislation and which reforms can be done by the administration through regulations. Once we have the administration's definitive enumeration of legislative proposals, we can include them on the agenda for the Committee's upcoming hearing on criminal justice reforms.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Andrew J. McDonald in black ink.

Andrew J. McDonald  
Senate Judiciary Chairman

Handwritten signature of Michael P. Lawlor in black ink.

Michael P. Lawlor  
House Judiciary Chairman