

PAUL D. CORDERMAN
Legislative District 2
Washington County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Education, Business and Administration

Pensions



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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 866 Correctional Services – Payment by State – Inmate Housing Costs

Chairman Smith & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 866 to you this afternoon.

The current reimbursement per diem rate of \$45.00 given by the State Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to local county correctional facilities has not been updated since 2009. This bill changes the rate from \$45.00 to \$54.00. In conducting our own research, we reached out to all of the county correctional facilities in the State to determine the cost per day for housing an inmate at their facility. We heard back from ten jurisdictions and determined the average cost per day, which is approximately \$103.73.

With over a decade between 2009 when the rate was last updated and now, the cost of living has increased, as has the cost of housing an inmate. In speaking with multiple jurisdictions across the state, all of them reported that the cost per day to house an inmate is well above the current \$45.00 rate. In order to provide the proper care, medication, housing, and reentry services needed to successfully prepare inmates for their next steps, local county correctional facilities should be properly and reasonably funded at a rate that matches their expenses.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 866.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P.D. Corderman".

Senator Paul D. Corderman, District 2 – Washington County