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May11, 2020

Ms. Keely Martin Bosler, Director
Department of Finance
Room 1145, State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Bosler:

In a letter dated May 8, 2020, you notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, pursuant to Section 36.00, Chapter 2, Statutes of 2020, of your intention to augment a non-budget act item of appropriation to assist state and local governments in protecting the health and safety of the public and reducing the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Specifically, Item 5225-604-0001 is augmented by \$8,585,101 for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to reimburse counties for housing inmates due to a 30-day extension of the temporary stoppage of prison intake initially announced by executive order on March 24, 2020. This is the second of such augmentation bringing the total to \$14,329,018.

Given the severity of the COVID-19 crisis, I concur with the spending request to help ensure that counties are able to promote public safety in their communities. However, I remain extremely concerned about the expanding COVID-19 outbreak in the state's correctional facilities, especially because we are informed that intake is planned to resume within a few weeks and the department's data indicate a higher rate of positive cases in our state prisons than the rest of California. As such, I concur with the Administration that the state's COVID-19 response should be guided by science.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the JLBC be provided the public health guidelines that are being used to establish the physical distancing standards, the modeling and data that shows the current prison population level, and the proper physical distancing population level anticipated should intake resume. Just as the Governor is requiring counties to meet specific criteria prior to reopening, I urge the Administration to provide the committee with the criteria that have been adopted to ensure that CDCR can safely resume intake and the plan to expand testing capabilities for staff and inmates. In addition, I request information that shows that each state institution is prepared to adequately quarantine the increasing number of cases among staff and inmates and in the event that new inmates with COVID-19 are admitted. Finally, I request

that the department provide the public health guidelines that are helping determine the department's long-term plans and the timeline for resuming other aspects of operation including but not limited to programming and visitation.

I would appreciate receiving a written response to the information requested herein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a rectangular box.

Holly J. Mitchell
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee