



17TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PHONE: (517) 373-1530
LauriePohutsky@house.mi.gov

LAURIE POHUTSKY

May 21st, 2026

Director Washington,

We are deeply concerned about the conditions not only at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, but all of the facilities under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Corrections and your supervision.

In the last month, there have been at least four deaths in MDOC facilities that have gained public attention. On April 15th, Colton Mitchell was stabbed to death in his cell at the Chippewa Correctional Facility. Devin Hurst fell to his death on April 23rd at the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center after two other prisoners had fallen from the same area that week. On May 13th, Khaira Howard died at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, followed by Rebecca Fackler on May 17th at the same facility. These deaths follow heightened scrutiny of the Department's facilities, incarcerated individuals' access to health care, and conditions of confinement within Michigan's prisons from the Michigan Legislature. Tragically, this scrutiny was not enough to save these lives or to cause the Department to act to address these pressing concerns before more incarcerated individuals suffer neglect, injury, or death in the State of Michigan's custody.

Significant policy and culture change must occur within the Michigan Department of Corrections. This cannot and will not be achieved with the departure of just one member of MDOC's leadership. However, it has become abundantly clear to each of us that such change cannot and will not occur under *your* leadership as Director. In the over a decade that you have served as Director of the Michigan Department of Corrections, concerns raised by inmates, their loved ones, and legislators alike have gone unaddressed. Inmates have died due to suicide, preventable health conditions, and dehydration. These individuals are placed in the care of the State, and we are all responsible for their health and safety. Moreover, repeated attempts by legislators to see that these concerns are addressed by MDOC have been met for years by a pattern of denial, dishonesty, obfuscation, and obstruction by the Department. That is unacceptable and has resulted in a loss of confidence in your leadership among legislators and the public. The well-being of the 33,000 individuals in MDOC custody and their families, and the public interest, demand urgent change. That change must begin with your immediate resignation as Director.





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Congresswoman
12th District

Dylan Wegela
State Representative
26th District

Regina Weiss
State Representative
5th District

Jennifer Wortz
State Representative
35th District

Noah Arbit
State Representative
20th District

Jimmie Wilson
State Representative
32nd District

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77th District

Natalie Price
State Representative
6th District

Mike McFall
State Representative
14th District

Carrie Rheingans
State Representative
47th District

Angela Rigas
State Representative
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