



HENRY McMASTER, Governor  
BRYAN P. STIRLING, Director

June 23, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Re: Incarceration and Detention During COVID-19 Hearing-Written Questions

Dear Chairman Graham:

I am in receipt of the written questions from members regarding my testimony on "Examining Best Practices for Incarceration and Detention During COVID-19." Please see attached my responses to those questions.

Again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

*Bryan P. Stirling*  
Bryan P. Stirling

Attachment

BPS/ndh

**Bryan Stirling – Examining Best Practices for Incarceration and Detention  
During COVID-19**

**Questions for the Record**

**Submitted June 9, 2020**

**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR COONS**

1. Please provide information about the costs of the pandemic to your operations.
  - a. In what ways qualitatively and to what degree quantitatively has the pandemic burdened your department's resources?
    - SCDC has experienced temporary staffing shortages due to hospital duty, implementing necessary quarantine protocols, and a general loss of production for staff because of this health crisis.
    - Financially we have expended unbudgeted funds on PPE and disinfecting/cleaning materials and equipment in excess of \$1.6 million dollars. Products procured were Level I, II & III gowns, hand sanitizer and containers, 3 layer masks, N95 masks, KN 95 Masks, thermometers, sanitizing mats, foam sanitizer, shoe sanitizer, finger pulse oximeters, Vector foggers and solution, head gear, face shield, exam tables, equipment to outfit intake at Lieber, equipment for quarantine units at Lee, courier services for COVID19 testing, transport stretchers, IV pumps, gloves, COVID19 testing equipment, washing machines, and other items.
      - SCDC's farming operations and Prison Industries have taken losses due to the lack of demand and markets for work release products produced and quarantined incarcerated individual workers.
        - Farm production has decreased in revenue by an overall 518K annually and is projected to decrease more during the next few months.
        - Beef Sales -19%
        - Corn and Soybean sales -18.1% & -10.7%
        - Milk Sales -15%
        - Egg production -53%
      - Prison industries has lost approximately \$1.63 million dollars in revenue
      - Prison Industries gross incarcerated individual wages decreased by approximately \$479k through June 1, 2020. Loss of incarcerated individual pay has a direct impact on family support, restitution, victim services, room and board as well as incarcerated individual spending support to the canteen and incarcerated individual Package

Program.

- SCDC is providing remote virtual training for all SCDC staff to include new correctional officer training. SCDC is also providing reentry programming, educational and vocational classes virtually for incarcerated individuals.
- Projects have been put on hold until financial and staffing resources are available:
  - Slowed or temporarily discontinued: Lee Rec Yard Fencing, Exterior Expansion Joints at Kershaw, GTL Tablet system, Lee Canine units, Camille Parking lot, Q1 dorm at Perry HVAC, Kershaw Keepers on doors, Program Building at Camille, Campbell D Dorm Demolition, Embroidery Machine repair, and Kitchen Hood system – Broad River.
  - SCDC contracts with outside entities and are unable to utilize these resources to their full extent, which equates to a loss in resources.

b. Were Congress to provide additional aid to state and local governments to assist their correctional institutions with addressing the pandemic, how should that aid be sized and structured?

- Funding should be formula based on the size of the workforce, population, and the total costs per year to house an incarcerated individual.
- The aid could reimburse funds spent directly on PPE and personnel costs.
- The funds could also be allowed for direct expense on programs or items that were reduced in order to purchase PPE. Examples of these items include deferred facility maintenance and medical billings.
- The funds could offset the loss of revenue to enterprise units such as the Farm operations and Prison Industries.

c. How would you utilize additional financial support?

- SCDC would purchase equipment to fight future virus pandemics and the common flu.
  - Purchases would include:
    - Ultraviolet equipment for entry and exit points in the agency
    - Ultraviolet equipment for HVAC units
    - Temperature equipment for entry points/institutions
    - Fogging/disinfecting units

- Equipment for remote virtual learning and programming for an incarcerated individual and officer levels
  - Modernize the COVID quarantine units with more medical equipment
  - Telehealth programs
  - Invest in better equipment for remote group meetings and telecommuting
  - Create a PPE baseline supply in our warehouse for a quick agency response to future outbreaks
2. Are you aware of any best practices for managing COVID-19 in correctional institutions that have seen success at the state level but are not being applied at the federal level?
- I do not have direct knowledge of practices being implemented by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, however, SCDC has developed an app that allows us to monitor employees for Quarantine Travel, Quarantine Exposure or Illness which synchronizes with an app that allows or denies entry into our facilities for staff. This app has been instrumental in tracking our staff and managing the spread of COVID-19 in our system