



AFSCME Legislative Agenda 2017

Banning Private Prisons

Make it Illegal to Operate or Lease a Private Prison in Minnesota

AFSCME opposes House File 1510 – a dangerous attempt to reopen a private prison in Appleton that's owned by CoreCivic (the rebranded name for CCA, the Corrections Corporation of America).

Commissioner Tom Roy says the Department of Corrections doesn't want or need the Appleton prison and Gov. Dayton says he will veto any bill to lease it from CoreCivic. They agree that sentencing reform is a better remedy for our overcrowded prisons.

CoreCivic is the largest private prison group in America. There's a trail of horror stories about how they cut corners to make a buck. Investigations of their prisons have found terrible conditions – worms in the food, inmates left without medical care, guards committing rape, and facilities so understaffed that they're essentially run by prison gangs. Often CoreCivic doesn't treat inmates for drug addiction or mental illness – and that's a formula for recidivism. Learn about the evils of CoreCivic at www.appletonlease.org.

Minnesota should ban private prisons. Private prison companies claim to operate safe facilities that save taxpayers money. In reality, private prisons are more dangerous for inmates and staff, and often fail to deliver on the savings they promise.

AFSCME supports legislation to make it illegal to operate a private prison in Minnesota. Our union also opposes any lease agreement that would give the private prison industry a foothold here. It's morally wrong for corporations to profit from human incarceration.

Criminal justice is a core responsibility of government – and public workers should be protecting public safety. AFSCME members do a good job of that in state prisons and county jails.

Our jobs are dangerous, but we deserve to return home safely to our families. That's why we support bonding for construction projects that will make our prisons safer.

Action – Ask your legislators to:

- **Make private prisons illegal (Support HF 1692 / SF 1675).**
- **Oppose leasing the Appleton prison from CoreCivic.**
- **Support sentencing reform to address overcrowding.**
- **Support Governor Dayton's bonding proposal, which includes \$19 million for the intake unit at St. Cloud Correctional Facility and \$5 million to add 60 medical beds at Lino Lakes Correctional Facility.**