



January 17, 2018

Chairman Ron Marsico
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RE:

Dear Chairman Marsico,

Thank you for extending the invitation to testify at your upcoming hearing on January 25 in Reading. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this critically important conversation, but we must respectfully decline the invitation at this time.

GEO Care's Reentry Services division provides individuals, nearing the end of their sentence, with the resources necessary to productively transition back into society. Through residential reentry centers, GEO Care provides federal and state parolees and probationers with temporary housing, employment assistance, rehabilitation and substance abuse counseling, and vocational and education programs.

The GEO Group took over the ADAPPT facility operations in Reading from Community Education Centers in May 2017. At that time, the facility did not meet with GEO's exacting standards, and we took immediate action to improve both the physical plant and security protocols, including: increased staffing levels, increased staff rounds, increased drug testing, enhanced employment verification, replaced ground level windows, improved exterior lighting, and more security cameras. We also enhanced the programmatic offerings at ADAPPT and trained our staff in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA).

As we were making these immediate improvements, we began making plans for long term improvements. GEO is investing \$4.5 million in facility upgrades in 2018. With this comprehensive overhaul, the facility will be more secure, more comfortable for our residents, and therefore more conducive to effective treatment. We are also installing security screens on all windows, replacing exterior doors and alarms, installing an air conditioning system, and renovating facility bathrooms. These major upgrades will be accompanied by a wide range of other minor improvements such as fixing gutters, painting, repairing the brick façade, and replacing an exterior staircase.

We maintain an exceptionally close working relationship with both the Department of Corrections and the Bureau of Probation and Parole. They maintain a constant presence onsite, including agent desks and meeting space, to ensure open, positive communication and collaboration. Several implemented changes at ADAPPT were based on DOC recommendations, and we will continue to work together to ensure that the facility employs generally accepted best practices.

Because of our close partnership with DOC, we are confident that the Department will provide the committee with all the required information, and our presence will not be necessary. Thank you again for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Derrick D. Schofield".

Derrick Schofield
Executive Vice President, The GEO Group, Inc.