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Date: 11/29/2018 8:00:48 PM

Subject: Fiscally Responsible / Humane Solutions for SCDC

Attachments: Reimagining-Prison_Executive-Summary.pdf

Good evening, This is a follow up to my letter of October 14th that detailed the positive efforts of inmates being made in the Character Based Unit at McCormick Correctional Institution. First I would like to thank those of you who took the time to read my letter. Second, I would especially like to thank those of you who responded.

Shortly after writing to you I became aware of a national program that is similar in its efforts to provide second chances and put dignity and hope into corrections. The Vera Institute of Justice is a justice reform change agent. Vera produces ideas, analysis, and research

that inspire change in the systems people rely upon for safety and justice, and works in close partnership with government and civic leaders to implement it. Vera is currently pursuing core priorities of ending the misuse of jails, transforming conditions of confinement, and ensuring that justice systems more effectively serve America increasingly diverse communities. For more information, visit www.vera.org.

On October 10th Vera Institute of Justice held their Reimagining Prison conference at John Jay College. The event was the culmination of their Reimagining Prison Project and the release of their Reimagining Prison Report, which makes the case for a humandignity centered approach to incarceration. I have attached a summary of their report and urge each of you to read it and consider their recommendations.

South Carolina can lead the way in supporting this grass roots effort that is already implementing many of the ideas identified in the Reimagining Project. Your support of the CBU program in South Carolina prisons and legislative reform can provide hope and positive change that will greatly benefit many.

Again thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurie McDermott