

For immediate release
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Governor comments on National Institute of Corrections Review

The following is a statement from Governor Mark Parkinson regarding the National Institute of Corrections report on the Topeka Correctional Facility:

“In October, I requested an independent, objective review of the Topeka Correctional Facility. I did this, first, to ensure the safety and security of staff and inmates within the system and, second, to address questions related to management at the facility.

“The results of that review have now been delivered to my office. This report concludes that ‘...there is no evidence to suggest that either investigators or the administration have ignored allegations brought forward to them.’ The report also commends the Department of Corrections for their commitment to addressing the issue of sexual abuse and acknowledges the number of strategies they have enacted to prevent this crime.

“This reaffirms what I have always believed – the men and women who work in Kansas’ correctional system are dedicated public servants. Their work is difficult and sometimes dangerous, and they deserve our thanks.

“The report also suggests some areas for improvement. Additional staff training and increased consistency in certain management procedures are two notable suggestions that I have asked the Department of Corrections to address immediately.

“Many of the suggestions will require additional funding for staffing and equipment. Unfortunately, the state budget situation has resulted in significant budget cuts to our prisons. This report reaffirms that we have reached a point where we must decide whether we continue to knowingly damage an institution that protects our communities, our homes and our families – or, do we begin to rebuild this system so that Kansas remains safe and secure for our children and future generations?

“I would like to again express my appreciation to the National Institute of Corrections, their Deputy Secretary Tom Beauclair and the Moss Group for their timely, expert and thorough review of the issues raised.”

Attached:

- A copy of the full report issued by the National Institute of Corrections
- A copy of a letter from Governor Parkinson to Corrections Secretary Roger Werholtz regarding the report’s findings.

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