

A Path Forward for Alabama's Prison System

A HOST OF INTERCONNECTED PROBLEMS

Prisoners are often denied access to basic necessities like food, clothing, and shelter. They are often housed in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. Many prisoners are not given the opportunity to work or receive education, which hinders their ability to gain skills and find employment upon release. The Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) has a long history of neglecting the needs of its prisoners, leading to a high rate of recidivism. The state's current prison system is outdated and inefficient, with many facilities that are over 50 years old. The state's budget cuts have further exacerbated these problems, leading to a decline in the quality of care and services provided to prisoners.

A SET OF SOLUTIONS & PATH FORWARD

1. Strategic prison construction by the state:

- The state should invest in strategic prison construction to replace outdated facilities. The new facilities should be designed to be more secure, efficient, and cost-effective. The state should also invest in the construction of new facilities in areas that are currently underserved.
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2. Increasing staff and reducing violence:

- ADOC should increase the number of staff and improve their training to reduce violence in the prisons. This includes hiring more staff and providing them with the necessary resources and support to do their jobs effectively.
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3. Sentencing and parole reform now to reduce the prison population safely:

Alabama's current sentencing and parole laws are outdated and often result in unnecessary incarceration. The state should reform its sentencing and parole laws to ensure that only those who are truly dangerous are incarcerated. This includes reducing the length of sentences for non-violent offenses and increasing the number of people who are eligible for parole. The state should also invest in the construction of new facilities that are designed to be more secure, efficient, and cost-effective. The state should also invest in the construction of new facilities in areas that are currently underserved.

The state can continue on the path started in 2015 by:

- Investing in the construction of new facilities that are designed to be more secure, efficient, and cost-effective.
- Increasing the number of staff and improving their training to reduce violence in the prisons.
- Reforming sentencing and parole laws to ensure that only those who are truly dangerous are incarcerated.

GOALS OF ALABAMA'S PRISON SYSTEM:

- Protect public safety
- Make prisons safe for officers & incarcerated people
- Ensure constitutional levels of care
- Use taxpayer dollars effectively