May 11, 2010

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

We are deeply concerned about the allegations of abuse and racist treatment of inmates at California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation behavior management units at several institutions covered in the recent *Sacramento Bee* series. We are even more troubled, however, by the accusations that investigations into these allegations were either ignored, or worse, covered up. Finally, there appear to be charges of retaliation against employees who have attempted to bring these issues to light.

The Senate intends to fully examine these allegations, and we look forward to the full cooperation of your administration in our efforts. Towards that end, we would like an immediate briefing from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the Office of the Inspector General, to address the following questions:

- When did the administration become aware of these allegations, and what specific investigatory and remedial actions ensued?
- Were complaints associated with these allegations investigated, and if so when, by whom, and with what outcomes?
- What actions are being taken now by the administration in response to these allegations, or other allegations relating to conditions and treatment in behavior management units?
- What oversight systems are in place in your administration to ensure that allegations such as those described in the *Bee* articles are swiftly investigated and addressed?

California’s correctional institutions must be operated in a manner that ensures the safety of the public, correctional employees and inmates. Effective correctional practices by definition must be applied humanely and ethically and, to the extent these basic standards are not assured, the public trust is failed.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Darrell Steinberg  
President pro Tempore of the Senate  

Mark Leno  
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety