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CCPOA RESPONDS TO THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

WEST SACRAMENTO — Today the governor released his proposed state budget for fiscal year 2010-11, which fails to include any comprehensive and desperately needed prison reform ideas. Instead, what he has proposed is simply “business as usual.”

Among the many flaws in his new budget is his plan to place out-of-state, for-profit corporations in charge of California’s prisons. First and foremost, government should never abdicate its core function and responsibility to protect the public by turning over public safety services to a private company.

“Giving billions of dollars in the form of state contracts to large campaign contributors does little to solve the state’s budget crisis,” said Mike Jimenez, state president of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association.

“Reducing bureaucratic waste, reforming our state’s parole system and helping released offenders succeed once they return to our communities would save real dollars and greatly improve public safety,” Jimenez said.

Earlier this week, CCPOA distributed to the Governor and the Legislature our latest “New Direction” blueprint for fixing California’s broken prison system.

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Our plan offers relevant reform at multiple levels. Together, these reforms could save billions of tax dollars, better protect the public and help inmates turn their lives around.

“We call on the Administration, new and returning members of the Legislature, and all key stakeholders to participate in a clear and open working group process, and to devote the substantial time that will be necessary to develop and implement meaningful, feasible and effective correctional solutions in the coming years,” Jimenez concluded.

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