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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION
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LABOR & INDUSTRY

October 29, 2019

HAND DELIVERED

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Governor Wolf,

“Honestly, we’re just making it look like I’m paying attention. I just want people to think that I’m paying attention.”

- John E. Wetzel, Pennsylvania Secretary of Corrections at the October 17, 2019 public hearing regarding the proposed closing of State Correctional Institution – Retreat

What are we, or anyone hearing such a comment, to think about the sincerity, professionalism, or empathy of the person making this statement? Secretary Wetzel confirmed what many believed, that neither he nor your administration take Act 133 seriously. Without doubt, Secretary Wetzel’s comments are in violation of the spirit of Act 133 if not the letter of the law. He proved the public hearing was nothing more than a charade. Upon making his comments, Secretary Wetzel removed all doubt that he possesses the ability or temperament to remain in his position and make an unbiased recommendation regarding the closure of SCI-Retreat.

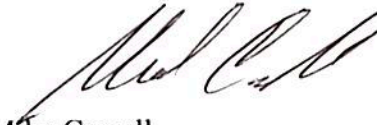
We call upon you to immediately remove Secretary Wetzel from his position and replace him with an individual of integrity capable of a sincere review of the testimony and data provided at the October 17th hearing. The public safety of the Commonwealth should not be entrusted to someone who clearly lacks the honor and principle required of the position. Clearly, the lives and well-being of SCI-Retreat’s 400 employees and 1,100 inmates are not the priority of this man.

You cannot sit idly by and allow members of your cabinet to lead with such callousness, especially at this time of great importance when the closure of this facility is under consideration. We firmly believe the safety of all Pennsylvanians is at stake and certainly the lives of the 400 employees and the economic stability of an entire region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Gerald J. Mullery
State Representative
119th Legislative District



Mike Carroll
State Representative
118th Legislative District



Eddie Day Pashinski
State Representative
121st Legislative District

cc: John E. Wetzel, Pennsylvania Secretary of Corrections