



## Illinois General Assembly

Latoya Hughes, Acting Director  
Illinois Department of Corrections  
1301 Concordia Court  
P.O. Box 19277  
Springfield, IL 62794-9277

September 23, 2024

Dear Director Hughes,

In light of numerous constituent reports concerning exposure to drugs and other unknown substances within prison facilities across the state, we are urging the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) to temporarily suspend the processing of all non-legal mail within its facilities until safety protocols are put into place. This action is necessary to safeguard the well-being of correctional officers and all individuals within these institutions.

The safety of those who serve and reside in our prisons must remain our top priority. Unfortunately, we have been informed that just this past weekend, yet another incident occurred where correctional officers were endangered by contaminated mail. Such risks are unacceptable and cannot be allowed to continue.

For the safety of our correctional officers and the individuals under their protection, IDOC must take immediate action. Ignoring this issue puts both staff and inmates at unnecessary risk. We have a responsibility to prevent these incidents and to ensure that all hardworking IDOC employees are protected.

We have been in communication with union representatives for IDOC employees and have conveyed the urgency of this matter. While the Governor's office, IDOC, and the legislature work together on permanent solutions, the most immediate and logical step is to temporarily suspend the processing of non-legal mail.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to your response and working collaboratively to protect the safety of everyone within IDOC facilities.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Fowler.

Senator Fowler, 59<sup>th</sup> District

Handwritten signature of Senator Bryant.

Senator Bryant, 58<sup>th</sup> District

Handwritten signature of Rep. Windhorst.

Rep. Windhorst, 117<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Jacobs, 118<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Severin, 116<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Friess, 115<sup>th</sup> District