



# NO ON HB 2066/SB 5866

## *Early Release - a Danger to Our Communities*

**SEVERELY COMPROMISES PUBLIC AND PRISON SAFETY-** After a federal investigation of the Monroe Correctional Complex, the National Institute of Corrections reported that inadequate resources and staffing levels seriously compromised the safety of DOC personnel. \$90 million in additional reductions would have devastating consequences for public and prison safety.

### **PROPOSED REDUCTIONS WOULD LEAD TO LONG-TERM COST**

**INCREASES-** There is a direct correlation between early release and increased recidivism rates, the rate at which released prisoners re-offend. According to a recent PEW Institute study, Washington's recidivism rate increased by over 30% from 2004-2007 leading to higher crime rates and increased costs to the State. Cycling offenders in and out of our prison system is too costly and too dangerous for Washington families.

### **RELEASING SEX OFFENDERS AND VIOLENT CRIMINALS INTO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS IS THE WRONG WAY TO BALANCE THE BUDGET**

In the current House proposal over 1,000 prisoners would be released early, without regard to their risk levels. The Senate's version would release over 500 prisoners early and would immediately release more than 100 additional prisoners, even high violent and sex offenders, who are past their earned release date.

**A DEVASTATING IMPACT TO LOCAL ECONOMIES-** Slashing an additional \$90 million from DOC's budget would put hundreds of highly-qualified public safety professionals out of work, increase reliance on state-assistance programs and result in a significant loss of tax revenue across the state. In many rural communities DOC employment makes up a significant percentage of the tax base and is critical to sustaining local businesses, school districts and housing markets.

### **COALITION OF PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERS OPPOSE EARLY RELEASE-**

Teamsters Local 117, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs have spoken against proposed budget measures that eliminate programs, release prisoners early and eliminate positions because they know what the result will be: more crimes committed against the public.

**COMPROMISES SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY-** Much of the prison population enters DOC struggling with mental illness, drug addiction and extreme poverty. Comprehensive programming incorporating drug treatment, mental-health counseling and educational/vocational training is critical to a successful re-entry into society. Curtailing access to these rehabilitative services through early release endangers our communities and puts Washington families at risk.