

Ending Private Detention in Washington State

Private prisons have **higher rates of violence** than public prisons.

Corrections officers employed by private prison companies earn up to **\$23,850 less** on average in annual salary compared to the public sector.

At least **22 states** stopped housing incarcerated people in for-profit, private facilities.

Private prisons deliberately exclude people with high medical care costs from their contracts, incarcerating younger, healthier individuals who are **disproportionately people of color**.

People incarcerated in private prisons have **higher rates of recidivism** than people incarcerated in public prisons.

All people confined in prisons and detention facilities deserve basic health care, nutrition, and safety from violence. Yet, individuals in private facilities suffer in dangerous, unsanitary conditions because private prison companies cut down on services to maximize their bottom line.

Private prisons cut costs by cutting corners. Private prisons cut down on operational costs by slashing essential security and healthcare services, leading to **higher rates of violence and death** compared to government-run facilities.

- For-profit, private facilities employ fewer guards and provide less pay and training to staff. Chronic understaffing translates into more dangerous conditions with not enough guards to prevent assaults or respond to prisoners' requests for medical attention.
- Private facilities offer **inadequate medical care and other services** for those in confinement. In private prisons, individuals with life-threatening medical emergencies have often waited days to see a doctor.

Prohibiting private prison use promotes transparency and accountability in our justice system. Private facilities engage in a race to the bottom, offering cheap, poor quality services to maximize profits. And since private prison companies operate with little oversight, they have no incentive to change bad behavior or correct mismanagement.

- Multiple states—including Arkansas, California, Illinois, Nevada, North Dakota, and Utah—have either banned private prisons or ended contracts with private prison companies due to safety concerns, lack of cost savings, and/or abusive practices by private prison operators.

HB 2576 and SB 6442 will enhance public health and safety in Washington State by ensuring that people are confined in accountable, government-run facilities. The bills prohibit the operation of a private detention facility in Washington State; limit the State and local governments from using private prison facilities outside Washington State; and phase out existing contracts with private facilities by prohibiting any new contracts or contract extensions.