

## Corrections U.S.A

The National Corrections Voice for Professionals by Professionals

For Immediate Release

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**Corrections U.S.A. Commends Senator Lieberman for Introducing Federal Legislation To Require Private Prison Companies To Make Information Available To The Public**

Today, leaders of Corrections U.S.A. (CUSA), an Association representing over 80,000 professional correctional officers nationwide, expressed appreciation to Senator Lieberman for reintroducing S. 2010, legislation to require private prison companies that contract with the federal government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons are required to under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Chairman of CUSA, Jim Baiardi, said: "This bill would ensure that the public, on request, could access information from private prisons about assaults, staffing, escapes, wages, turnover rates, and lawsuits. This information plays a vital role in ensuring that communities are being kept safe and secure from the criminal element. We all need to know what is going on behind the walls of private prisons. S. 2010 would make it our right."

The privatization of corrections has grown in recent years at the local, state, and federal level due to false claims by private prison companies that they can run prisons cheaper and more efficiently than the public sector. Private prison guards receive less training and pay and experience higher rates of turnover than those in the public sector. As a result, employees, inmates, and surrounding communities in private correction facilities are exposed to greater risks of harm.

Baiardi said: "Correctional officers employed by federal, state and local governments are dedicated, hardworking, and professional. We are proud of our profession and strive to make corrections safer and more effective. We have a duty to uphold public safety and a deep commitment to the communities in which we live."

CUSA strongly believes that incarcerating criminals should remain a government function. Fighting prison privatization is the Association's number one priority. S. 2010 would increase public safety by making important information available to the public on request.