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**The Honorable Katrina Frye Shealy  
Chair, Corrections and Penology Subcommittee to Review the LAC Report on DJJ**

**Hand-Delivered**

**Dear Senator Shealy:**

In 2017, the House Legislative Oversight Committee issued its study of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). During the study, significant concerns were received from the public which put into question the life, health, and safety of juveniles and employees at DJJ. As part of the Committee's study, an audit of DJJ was performed by the Legislative Audit Council (LAC) that included numerous recommendations seeking to improve these conditions. By the end of the Committee's study, changes were made in executive and senior level positions including: Agency Director; Deputy Director for Rehabilitation Services; Deputy Director for Inspector General Office; and Deputy Director for Community Services. With new leadership, the Committee expected implementation of recommendations and improvement of conditions. However, as you are aware, LAC released an alarming update to its 2017 audit that again questions the life, health, and safety of juveniles and employees at DJJ.

Given the serious nature of the findings from the LAC follow-up report, the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee, which is chaired by Representative Chris Wooten, is also reviewing the LAC report on DJJ. In an effort to efficiently receive information from LAC and DJJ administration, we write to explore the feasibility of holding joint meetings with the Senate Corrections and Penology Subcommittee reviewing the LAC report on DJJ. We are aware the subcommittee you chair has already devoted significant time at a meeting on April 21, 2021, meeting with LAC staff to review a portion of the report. Prior to any joint meeting, the House Subcommittee would review those materials so as to not impede your subcommittee's progress. Similar joint meetings held for the purpose of efficiently obtaining information were successful during the 2017 review of DJJ.

Senator Shealy  
Page Two

Thank you for your consideration of this request as well as for your service to the people of South Carolina, including the juveniles entrusted in the care of DJJ and the more than 1,000 employees of DJJ.

Sincerely,

Wm. Weston J. Newton  
Chair, House Legislative Oversight Committee  
Subcommittee

Chris Wooten  
Chair, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

cc: The Honorable Kimberly O. Johnson, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee Member  
The Honorable Josiah Magnuson, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee Member  
The Honorable John R. McCravy, III, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee Member