



## GEO BILL AMENDMENTS FAIL, HB 4467 NOW GOES TO GOVERNOR FOR APPROVAL

After a contentious hour-long floor debate and several failed amendments, the Michigan Senate passed the GEO bill.

HB 4467 amends the corrections code to allow prisoners of any security level to be housed at the GEO-owned prison in Baldwin. The law previously allowed for Level IV and below. The prison has been shuttered for several years.

MCO testified against the bill during Senate committee hearings, citing various safety and economic concerns, and supported Sen. Steve Bieda's (D- 9th District) amendment to exclude high level Michigan inmates from being sent to the facility.

Full Senate debate over the Bieda amendment was thorough with members of both parties speaking to the proposal. In the end, the 38 member senate was unable to deliver the 20 required votes to

adopt the amendment, falling short by a single senator (19 supported, 18 opposed, 1 excused).

Four other amendments also were defeated.

The unamended bill was voted on by the full Senate and passed with 23 yeas, 14 nays and 1 excused.

MCO leaders and staff think it's important for members to know how their legislators vote on corrections legislation. **At [mco-seiu.org](http://mco-seiu.org), you'll find lists of how your senators and representatives voted. Please take five minutes to see how your legislators voted. Let's hold them accountable.**

Next, the bill goes to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk. We urge all members to call Snyder at (517)373-3400 and ask him to veto this potentially harmful legislation.

## MDOC BUDGET UPDATE

The Corrections Conference Committee met Tuesday and finalized a budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The budget comes in at just over \$1.9 billion. It calls for \$56 million less from the General Fund than last year, a savings of just under 3 percent. Items of note include a \$2 million savings from the relocation of Kinross to Hiawatha and a projected \$15 million savings from combining contracts for health care and mental health care. MDOC plans to issue a request for proposals for one unified contract.

The Corrections Conference Committee is made up of legislators from both the House and Senate. Their primary responsibility is to hash out differences included in their respective budget plans. Next, the entire House and Senate must approve the budget. Then it will go to the governor's desk.

For more details, go to [legislature.mi.gov](http://legislature.mi.gov) and search for SB 119.

## OFFICER KEVIN OTT'S ATTACKER CONVICTED

**The inmate who assaulted Saginaw Officer Kevin Ott was convicted today of assault with intent to commit murder and other felonies.**

Prisoner Daniel Derda took the stand Thursday and admitted to attacking Ott, according to MLive coverage of the trial.

Ott and Officer Paul Stine were also among those who testified. Ott said his doctor told him he would have died if Stine hadn't intervened when he did.

The jury deliberated just 30 minutes before reaching the verdict. Derda will be sentenced at a later date.

MCO leaders are pleased the Saginaw County prosecutor's office took this case to trial, and although justice has been served for CO Kevin Ott, we realize it doesn't erase the pain and suffering he endured in this brutal attack.

Had staffing been adequate, perhaps this could have been prevented. Ott's

situation should serve as a stark reminder for policy makers that cameras can't save lives like officers did that day.

**Several SRF employees received MDOC awards last month for their heroic actions at work and in the community.**

**Many of them were honored for action they took to help Ott.**

Officers recognized for responding to Ott's assault are:

- Karin Florey, Lifesaving Award
  - Edward Rodda, Lifesaving Award
  - Paul Stine, Valor Award
- Other staff recognized:
- Darrel Barrows
  - Joshua Buskirk
  - Lindsay Williams

MCO would like to recognize officers at your facility, too! Email us at [mail@mco-seiu.org](mailto:mail@mco-seiu.org).

## AROUND THE STATE: ARF CO INJURED; RECRUITS CLEAN UP MR

**A Gus Harrison officer has not returned to work after being punched in the face May 19.**

The CO suffered broken bones in his face, officers said.

The inmate who assaulted him was housed in the Level IV Residential Treatment Unit. He also flooded and barricaded his cell, officers said.

**Recruits found dozens of weapons in a "clean sweep" at Michigan Reformatory earlier this month.** More than 130 recruits participated and found:

- 6 shanks tossed from cells
- 11 weapons in prisoner possession
- 4 disposable razors in prisoner possession
- 4 tattoo needles (2 with motors) in prisoner possession
- 2 incidents of substance abuse (spud juice)

Twenty inmates were sent to seg.