



TELL LEGISLATORS YOUR STORY AT TOWN HALLS

MCO is hosting legislative town hall meetings in Jackson and Ionia, with more in the works.

The Jackson meeting will be at 1 p.m. Dec. 15 at Blackman Township Hall with state Reps. Julie Alexander and Brett Roberts. [RSVP for the Jackson town hall.](#)

The Ionia meeting will be at 1 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Ionia Armory Community Center with state Reps. Julie Calley and Thomas Albert. [RSVP for the Ionia town hall.](#)

Town halls in other cities will be announced.

At these events, MCO members will have the chance to ask questions and

share concerns with representatives who set the budget and make other decisions that impact our work and lives. With MCO's 50th anniversary on the horizon next year, we're stepping up our advocacy efforts and drawing awareness to the importance of safe staffing levels, adequate food, and more. We will show that we're a resource, not a roadblock. Through these conversations, we can start to change the narrative of corrections officers at the legislature.

We would like a big showing of COs at these events who are prepared to speak on the realities of corrections careers. RSVP for the [Jackson town hall](#) or the [Ionia town hall](#) now.

MCO VIDEO GETS NATIONAL ATTENTION

CorrectionsOne has republished our video, MCO: A Legacy of Service, and information on Move Forward! Check out [CorrectionsOne's article](#) now. We're changing the narrative of what it means to be a corrections officer. [Please retweet](#) or post a link on Facebook to help us spread the word!



[Click to watch MCO: A Legacy of Service.](#)

CONTROVERSIAL CORRECTIONS BILL CLEARS HOUSE AND SENATE

By Jeremy Tripp

MCO, Director Government Affairs

This week, in a bipartisan effort, the Michigan House and Senate gave final approval to what many corrections officers see as a controversial bill.

[HB 4065](#) would require the MDOC to establish a policy allowing for the employment or appointment of an individual who had been convicted of a felony to a position within the Department if his or her employment or appointment would not have a negative impact on public safety or the operation of the Department.

The new policy will also require an extensive background investigation of the applicant and the written approval of the Director before the Department could employ or appoint an applicant to a position.

Throughout the state, corrections officers have met this news with

mixed feelings and some confusion over the intent and language. MCO weighed in heavily when this issue first came up back in January and has spoken about the security concerns with the bill sponsor, other legislators, and various stakeholders throughout the process.

In those conversations, legislators iterated that it was not their intent to start hiring formerly incarcerated individuals into the security bargaining unit but said there was a desire to allow formerly incarcerated individuals to perhaps teach courses in the Vocational Village or play a role in increasing offender success through other rehabilitative programs.

That being said, many questions and concerns remain and MCO will be diligent in holding policy makers accountable to the decisions they make in regards to the safety and security of correctional institutions.

AROUND THE STATE: FSAs ASSAULTED; MORE DRONES

During the evening meal Sunday, a Forensic Center patient who apparently had issues with the food provided to her assaulted the FSA serving the meals with the plastic food tray and bit him in the elbow area.

The patient punched one of the responding FSAs in the eye, requiring several stitches and possibly fracturing his orbital bone. Both members received medical treatment at an emergency room. The FSA who was bitten by the patient returned to work the next day.

Members at the Forensic Center have dangerous jobs, too, where anything can happen at a moment's notice. Watch your back and stay safe.

More drone sightings were reported in Ionia this week.

ICF staff saw a drone flying from the direction of Bellamy Creek toward MTU Tuesday evening. IBC staff searched for contraband, but nothing was found.

RMI staff also spotted a suspected drone Sunday above J block. Staff shook down the yard, but no contraband was found.