



MCO PUTS DIRECTOR WASHINGTON ON NOTICE: NO CONFIDENCE IN MDOC LEADERSHIP

Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington is failing corrections officers. That was the theme of an open letter MCO President Byron Osborn sent to the director this morning. [Read the letter on our website.](#)

Facilities have been understaffed for years and years. COs are routinely left out of committees and workgroups that will have a direct impact on their jobs. Most recently, MDOC is making officers use

their earned leave credits for department-forced quarantine if they came in contact with someone at work who has COVID-19. None of this is right. MCO has tried to collaborate with MDOC administration for years, only to have our efforts rebuffed or ignored. We believe it's time for a change in leadership.

From the letter:

“Since you have been unable, and in some cases unwilling to effectively ad-

dress these issues, the Michigan Corrections Organization will be submitting a Vote of No Confidence to the Michigan Legislature and Governor's office regarding your continued appointment as Director of the Michigan Department of Corrections.”

MCO won't let up on our advocacy for members during these difficult times. Visit mco-seiu.org/failing to read the letter. Any updates will be posted there.

GUS HARRISON OFFICER STABBED IN NECK, EAR AFTER FINDING CONTRABAND

A Level II Gus Harrison inmate stabbed an officer an hour after the CO found spud juice in his cell.

The officer was stabbed in his right ear and neck. One puncture missed his jugular vein and carotid artery by a frac-

tion of an inch. The CO's eardrum may be ruptured as well.

The officer confiscated 24 bottles of spud juice and other possible contraband Tuesday from the inmate's cell. An hour later, the officer was making rounds when

the prisoner stabbed him with a clear plastic shank. The officer was able to gain control of the prisoner himself until responding staff arrived.

Please join us in hoping for a quick recovery for this officer. Stay safe.

APPLY BY SEPT. 1 FOR ACADEMY, DEBT RELIEF PROGRAMS FROM MCO

Applications for MCO's Academy [Assistance Program and Student Debt Assistance Program](#) must be postmarked by Sept. 1.

The Academy Assistance Program is for current members who paid out of pocket for the MDOC training academy in 2014 or 2015. The Student Debt Assistance Program is for MCO members carrying debt from college. Each program will award 20 grants of \$500 each.

We know we face many challenges at this time, including COVID-19 and at-

tacks from the Civil Service Commission. We are continuing to defend members' interests on all fronts. We can fight for our rights and, at the same time, think about innovative ways we can improve the lives of members and their families. We can and should provide programs that have a positive impact on members and their families.

[Read more or get an application for either program on our website.](#)

Good luck!

Informational Picket tomorrow in Muskegon!

[Did you see our bulletin Tuesday?](#) MCO is holding an informational picket from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28 across the street from Muskegon and Brooks correctional facilities.

The unsafe staffing levels and dangerous conditions inside Michigan prisons must be addressed immediately. Concerned citizens and family members are encouraged to join COs in this informational picket.



PORTAL OPEN NOW — PLEASE REAUTHORIZE YOUR DUES!

If you haven't already, please [log in to the HRMN online portal](#) as soon as possible to reauthorize your union dues and maintain your union. The portal will remain open through Saturday, Sept. 4.

Starting today, there's also a mobile version of the site so you can sign in and reauthorize from your phone.

The deadline for everyone to reauthorize their dues is Oct. 3. But **please don't wait until the last minute – reauthorization is too important. We don't want to risk anyone putting this off and then forgetting the deadline later.**

More information about reauthorization, including how-to guides, is at mco-seiu.org/reauthorize.