

H.543. Amendment to my original testimony. Senate Institutions Committee.
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My major concerns about building new prisons relate to the following issues:

1. Increased detentions of Immigrants.

If Vermont uses federal funds for building a new prison, the Dept. of Homeland Security may attempt to commandeer portions of a new prison for detention of undocumented immigrants. ICE uses some state prisons for detentions.

Vermont has passed a law creating separation between ICE and state police agencies. Providing ICE with more detention beds would complicate compliance with that law, despite the call for 52,000 beds per day for undocumented immigrants in the 2019 budget for Dept of Homeland Security.

Immigrants in Vermont work honorably in our dairy and other industries, have families and are valued in our communities. They live daily with corrosive fear of arrest and separation from loved ones.

2. Fair & Impartial Policing Policy.

Not all Vermont police agencies have complied with or done required training for the Fair & Impartial Policing Policy (FIPP). Given state failures and aggressive federal immigration policies, undocumented immigrants are still vulnerable to arrest by Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Customs and Border Patrol. Vermont agencies have provided immigrants' confidential information to ICE and CBP in violation of the FIPP.

3. Systemic racism in state government.

Vermonters and our Legislature are just beginning to grapple with systemic racism in legal and educational systems. Legislation is still under way on several aspects of racism in state government. Studies indicate disproportionate arrests and incarceration of people of color in Vermont. Building a new prison may exacerbate the national tendency to incarcerate and ask questions later.

4. Chittenden County Regional Correctional Center inadequate.

That the South Burlington facility is not fit for its current use has been clear for several years. Many understand that Vermont struggles with economies of scale. However, the \$250,000 allocated for comprehensive planning is inadequate for the breadth of planning necessary to consider alternatives before the deadline of January 15, 2020.

5. Budget adjustments needed.

Other budget items for prison infrastructure may be inflated; see version of H.543 as passed by the House, page 4. Please seek clarification of Lines 1-4, adding up to over *\$41 million dollars*. Please consider reallocating funds for a more comprehensive planning process to include non-prison alternatives.