REPORT OF THE CHARITABLE, PENAL & CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

Mr. Chairmen:

The Charitable, Penal & Correctional Institutions Subcommittee met on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, at the J. Aaron Hawkins Correctional Facility in Wrightsville. Meeting with the subcommittee were representatives from the Board of Corrections and the Departments of Correction and Community Correction for continued discussion of Interim Study Proposal 2009-197, to study the stabilization of Arkansas's increasing inmate population in efforts to curtail future growth.

Ray Hobbs, Director, Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) recognized Wendy Kelley, Deputy Director of Health and Correctional Programs, for a presentation of the programming and treatment services offered including substance abuse and sex offender treatment programs, work release, and boot camp. Dr. Charles Allen, CAO, Arkansas Corrections School System, reported on the elementary, secondary, and vocational technical education available to all persons incarcerated. Education is a requirement for those who are not high school graduates.

Mike Richards with the InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI) program presented an overview of the faith based program. IFI includes academic and life-skills classes, leadership training, prison jobs, personal study, and after care support upon release. Discussion included a video and personal testimony from an ADC inmate. Prior to adjournment, the subcommittee toured the boot camp and women's facility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Bobby Glover, Co-Chair

Representative Adcock, Co-Chair