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STATE SENATOR
LISA BAKER
20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



Senate of Pennsylvania

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July 26, 2019

The Honorable John Wetzel
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections
1920 Technology Parkway
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Dear Secretary Wetzel:

I appreciate the update you provided into the rash of deadly acts committed by individuals on parole. This regrettable set of tragedies has set off alarms about the system across the state. The quick succession of murders necessitates an inquiry that is thorough, candid, and trustworthy in every respect.

The investigation you described should yield crucial information about how the system works in practice, any detectable flaws or misjudgments in the process, and prospective remedies.

Over the last several years, efforts to reform and realign our criminal justice laws and policies have been bipartisan and bicameral. It is my intention to approach this latest difficulty in the same manner.

Given the understandably high level of community concern over public safety, it is essential for us to establish an open and accessible review process as a means of assuring accountability. Once your analysis is completed and the findings have been provided to the members, a public hearing will be set to allow you to elaborate on the situation and respond to questions and suggestions from committee members. We will also provide time for groups involved in the criminal justice process, including victims' rights organizations, to register their concerns.

Thank you for your quick action and commitment to cooperation. We look forward to examining the answers developed through your inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Baker".

Lisa Baker
Senator

pc: Representative Rob Kauffman, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Senate Judiciary Committee Members