



Private Prisons – At What Cost?

Privatizing multi-million dollar public functions with large numbers of employees isn't easy – and determining whether New Hampshire taxpayers are getting a good deal requires answers to hard questions.

Who pays for new, hidden or unexpected costs, such as

- local police time spent during a riot or searching for escapees after an escape?
- time the local prosecutor spends prosecuting crimes committed on the inside?
- the cost of defending lawsuits that name public actors as a result of alleged contractor failures or procurement problems?

Transitional costs? – Changing from one system to another raises immediate transitional costs.

Contract management costs? - Privatization doesn't mean the state writes a check and washing its hands of the responsibility. Contracted systems still require management to start, monitor and maintain.

Community costs? - Prisons play a role in the economy of many communities. When facilities are privatized or closed, the impact on residents and small businesses must be assessed.

- How many jobs are lost in the community compared to jobs created? Are the new jobs full time versus part time or temporary; with or without benefits?
- What happens to traffic, sewerage, water and watershed?
- What's the impact on the public pension system?
- Will workers be paid enough to contribute to the local economy or will they need public assistance to get food or healthcare?

Examining these costs and problems leads to one clear conclusion: private prisons aren't worth the trouble.

**For more information visit
www.NHPrisonWatch.org.**

