

STATE OF COLORADO

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Aristedes W. Zavaras
Executive Director

August 27, 2008

The Honorable Abel Tapia, Chairman
Senate Committee on State, Veterans, and Military Affairs
The Honorable Paul Weissmann, Chairman
House Committee on State, Veterans, and Military Affairs
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Senator Tapia and Representative Weissmann:

Section 24-76.5-103 (9), C.R.S., requires each state department that administers a program that provides state or local public benefits to provide an annual report demonstrating compliance with the provisions of H.B. 06S-1023 (Verification of Lawful Presence Required for Public Benefits). The Colorado Department of Corrections has consulted our legal counsel at the Office of the Attorney General regarding this issue. It is my understanding that the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) does not have any programs that provide a state or local public benefits. As a public safety agency, the CDOC has an obligation of supervising offenders who are in our legal custody, regardless of whether or not they are in the United States lawfully.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our compliance with the reporting requirements delineated in Section 24-76.5-103 (9), C.R.S. I can be reached at the following phone number: 719-226-4751. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Karl F. Spiecker
Chief Financial Officer

Cc: Bo Pogue, Legislative Council Staff
Geoff Johnson, Legislative Council Staff
Stephanie Villafuerte, Office of the Governor
Aristedes Zavaras, Department of Corrections