



# LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE ADVISORY:**  
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## **Senator Taylor Questions Walker's Lack of Action**

(MADISON) – Yesterday, in a letter to the Joint Finance Committee, the Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Cathy Jess wrote that the department, under Governor Walker's leadership, had not implemented body-worn cameras in the restrictive housing units of state's maximum security correctional institutions, despite being appropriated the funds in the 2017 Budget Act passed last September, which required them to do so.

The Wisconsin Department of Corrections 2017 Annual Report logged a number of assaults on corrections officers. The 2017 Budget Act that appropriated funds for body-worn cameras also included a section requiring the DOC to report by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, comparing the number of staff and inmate assaults reported in restrictive housing units before and after the implementation of body-worn cameras.

The failure to implement a single body-worn camera since the passage of the 2017 Budget Act comes at a time when the DOC is facing record over-crowding and addressing the failure to protect the safety of individuals at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lakes. In response to the Governor's continued lack of action in addressing these issues, Senator Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement:

"The problems within the Department of Corrections are deeply rooted and we can't expect them to be fixed overnight, particularly considering the turnover surrounding DOC Secretaries. However, when we say we're going to do something to improve the safety of both staff and those that are incarcerated, we need to do it."

"We know that this has been done in other states, so clearly it's reasonable. Whatever the possible concerns were, the DOC should have brought those to our attention when they first arose. Furthermore, what are the consequences to the department since this wasn't done?"

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