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REDUCING PRISON OVER CROWDING WITH COST-EFFECTIVE MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT
Actor Danny Trejo and Sheriff Lee Baca to Meet with Senate Select Committee at Los Angeles Hearing

SACRAMENTO -- A special Senate Select Committee on Mental Health hearing convenes on May 31 in Los Angeles to investigate how improving access to mental health for parolees and at-risk groups can result in lower incarceration and recidivism rates.

Senators **Jim Beall, D-San Jose; Kevin de León, D-Los Angeles; Leland Yee, D-San Francisco**, will be joined by **Sheriff Lee Baca; Danny Trejo**, who overcame addiction and a prison sentence to become a successful film actor; and experts to explain the benefits of treating parolees to improve lives and save millions of taxpayer dollars in prison costs.

Nearly a third of the state's inmates, about 33,000, suffer from mental illness. According to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office, the state spends an average of \$52,000 annually to house a single inmate. But the average annual cost of housing a mentally ill inmate can run twice as high.

"There has to be a fundamental shift in California's prison policy," said Beall, who chairs the select committee. "Merely locking up people doesn't work. Rehabilitation is more important than ever because we can't continue building prisons. Mental health care for inmates and parolees is the key to getting our crime and recidivism rates down. How do we do that? I think the Los Angeles hearing can give us answers."

Untreated mental illness's toll on our communities is too great to ignore, de Leon said.

"All too often, we see our families breaking apart because they have no access to mental health care," he said. "We must take action to provide parents and their children with the support they need instead of choosing to fill prison cells with people who are suffering from treatable mental disorders."

WHAT: *“Reducing California’s Prison Population and Recidivism Rate”*
State Senate Select Committee on Mental Health

WHEN: Friday, May 31. Meeting begins 11:30 a.m. and is scheduled to end
at 1:30 p.m. Press availability from 11 a.m. until the conclusion of the hearing.

WHERE: White Memorial Medical Center
Cafeteria Conference Room
1720 E. Cesar Chavez Ave., Los Angeles

AGENDA: 1. *Opening Remarks*

Sens. Jim Beall, Kevin de León, and Leland Yee

2. *Welcome*

Beth Zachary, President and CEO, White Memorial Medical

3. *Special Presentation*

Danny Trejo, Actor and Director of Western Pacific Rehab

4. *Treatment of Addiction in the Community Reduces Crime and Recidivism*

Dr. Richard Rawson, Associate Director of UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse
Programs

5. *Engaging Latino Families with Effective Mental Health Prevention and Programs*

Dr. Luis Garcia, Vice President of Latino Program Development Pacific Clinics

6. Sheriff Lee Baca

7. *Recovery, Treatment and Funding Strategies for Successful Reintegration of
Inmates Who Also Have a Serious Mental Illness*

Ross Peterson, Vice President of Telecare Corp.

8. *Increasing Safety and Reducing Costs Under Realignment
and the Affordable Care Act*

Sharon Aungst, Director of Partnership for Community Excellence