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# SHAE SORTWELL

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## The Future of Green Bay Correctional Institution

**Madison** – Representative Shae Sortwell (R-Gibson) released the following statement in response to today’s meeting to discuss the closure of the Green Bay prison:

“Conversations were had today between state lawmakers and local leaders regarding the closure of Green Bay Correctional Institution (GBCI). Bipartisan discussions around the closure have been happening for several years due to the conditions of the prison. Unfortunately, there has not been an agreement on a follow-up plan for the current prisoners and staff.”

“Due to the budget surplus our state has been in this fiscal cycle, a plan to close GBCI and build a new prison has never had a better opportunity. By utilizing efficient building plans and modern technology, a new prison would significantly reduce correctional staffing issues and certainly provide better conditions to inmates, staff, and visitors.”

“I proposed this plan to the former Department of Corrections Secretary years ago but received no willingness to take this plan seriously. I further met with representatives of the correctional officer union, AFSCME, in which I received a positive response and asked them to urge the governor’s administration to get on board. Sadly, the governor has not changed his tune. To be frank, GBCI closing with no replacement means staff will lose their jobs or have to inconveniently relocate. Inmates will have to relocate or be released, which would cause overcrowding of other prisons/jails and endanger the safety of the public.”

“GBCI is on its last legs. Its closure appears inevitable sooner rather than later. Northeastern Wisconsin needs a new prison. Having no plan for a replacement is irresponsible and will create a public safety crisis that can easily be avoided. The governor’s administration needs to get on board and take Wisconsinites’ safety seriously.”

Representative Sortwell is available for comment.

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