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Rep. Schraa's Statement on the Staff Death at Lincoln Hills

(Madison, WI) Rep. Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh) was notified about the death of a Department of Corrections (DOC) employee following the assault on two youth counselors at Lincoln Hills.

"My prayers go out to the family of the deceased staff member. This death could have been prevented by the department. DOC has been working on changing one of their administrative rules to make it harder for staff at Lincoln Hills to do their job. This is a prime example of why staff need the appropriate tools to keep themselves and other incarcerated individuals safe.

"With the death of this staff member, along with the events that have taken place at Waupun Correctional, it's evident that the Legislature needs to take action and provide additional oversight. Since 2019, I have asked the department if they were in crisis mode. Then Secretary Kevin Carr did not acknowledge the state of distress within the DOC. Numerous times, [I told Secretary Carr and my legislative colleagues that something needed to change](#). Due to our pleas being unanswered, we have a deceased staff member, nine DOC employees facing criminal charges, and four deceased inmates. Individuals who work in DOC, people who have been incarcerated, and family members of inmates have been contacting my office with their concerns over the last several weeks.

"My fellow committee members and the public need to know the gravity of the situation in the Department of Corrections. I intend on conducting an informational hearing as quickly as possible to allow these individuals to have an opportunity to share their stories with not just the committee, but with the people in charge of the department. Lives need to be protected."

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