Oklahoma has the second highest incarceration rate in the country, and has imprisoned women at a higher rate than any other state for nearly 30 years. The current system is dangerously overburdened and operating at 113% of capacity, creating unsafe conditions for both staff and inmates. A recent analysis of Fiscal Year 2017 Department of Corrections data shows the need to reform Oklahoma’s criminal justice system is more urgent than ever.

1. Oklahoma sends many more people to prison than other states.

Oklahoma Prison Admission Rates Compared to National Average

- Overall: Oklahoma FY17 = 245, National Average, 2016 = 174
- Male: Oklahoma FY17 = 411, National Average, 2016 = 309
- Female: Oklahoma FY17 = 82, National Average, 2016 = 43

Oklahoma admits 33% more men and 91% more women per capita than the national average.

2. Research demonstrates that prison can make people convicted of nonviolent crimes more likely to commit crime in the future. Yet Oklahoma sends thousands of people to prison for nonviolent crimes each year.

FY17 Prison Admissions

- Nonviolent: 7,328
- Violent: 2,246

77% of people admitted to prison were sentenced for nonviolent crimes.
OKLAHOMA KEEPS PEOPLE IN PRISON LONGER THAN OTHER STATES, EVEN THOUGH RESEARCH SHOWS THAT LONGER SENTENCES DO NOT REDUCE RECIDIVISM.

The Oklahoma Parole Board releases only a fraction of people who are eligible for parole.

People in Prison for Nonviolent Offenses, December 2017

There are 6,218 people sitting in prison for nonviolent crimes who are past their parole date. Last year, the Parole Board released only 325 people.

STATE LEGISLATURES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE ADVANCING BOLD CORRECTIONS REFORM, BUT OKLAHOMA IS MOVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.

Without additional reforms, Oklahoma's prison population is expected to grow another 25% within a decade, and the state will be forced to build new prisons. This will cost taxpayers an additional $1.9 billion.