

# Private Prison Reform in Georgia

Rather than rewarding rehabilitation and success, Georgia's guaranteed minimum occupancy payments to private prison operators incentivize cutting corners and warehousing inmates at the lowest possible cost.



Private prisons in Georgia hold **7,284** inmates, or **15 percent of the state's prison** population,<sup>1</sup> in four facilities operated by The GEO Group and CoreCivic.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Private Prisons in Georgia:**





The GEO Group and CoreCivic have cornered the market with **anti-competitive laws** and **unaccountable contracts**, all while raking in **\$145 million** in state funds per year.<sup>3</sup>

It's time to introduce accountability for private prisons through competition and contract reform.

## THE SOLUTION

Performance-based contracts pay operators more if inmates recidivate less and become employed. Georgia should rebid all contracts to be based on performance, aligning contract incentives with the success of the state correctional system.

### **WHY IT MATTERS**



Basing contract terms on **measurable outcomes** would refocus criminal justice on effective rehabilitation, which would set incarcerated individuals up for **success and improve community safety**.

# THE BOTTOM LINE: -

Georgia's private prison operators need more competition and accountability to better serve the people of the Peach State.



#### Georgia should:

Hold prisons accountable by introducing performancebased contracts that pay private prison operators based on the results they achieve.

#### SOURCES:

- 1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. "Prisoners in 2022 Statistical Tables." United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. November 2023. https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf.
- 2. Dupuis, Jakob and Christopher Sharp. "Aligning Profit with Outcomes in Private Prison Procurement. Cicero Institute. 2024.
- 3. Governor's Budget Reports. "AFY 2024 and FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report." https://opb.georgia.gov/document/governors-budget-reports/afy-2024-and-fy-2025-governors-budget-report/download.