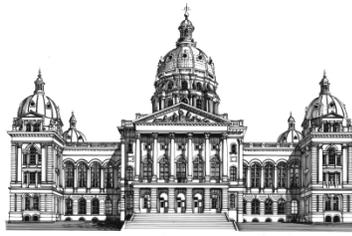


**Marti Anderson**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
*Thirty-Sixth District*  
Statehouse: (515) 281-3221  
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1717 Mar Ella Trail  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310



**House of Representatives**  
State of Iowa  
*Eighty-Ninth General Assembly*  
STATEHOUSE  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

**COMMITTEES**  
Environmental Protection  
Human Resources  
Public Safety

**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Justice Systems, Ranking Member

April 27, 2021

Governor Kim Reynolds  
State Capitol  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Re: Anamosa State Penitentiary Concerns

Governor Reynolds,

On Friday, April 23, 2021, I joined other Iowa lawmakers on a tour of the Anamosa State Penitentiary to meet with staff about the conditions inside the prison.

I was shocked by what I learned and what I witnessed during my visit. There are cell blocks that had almost 300 offenders and only two correctional officers to supervise; the facility's radio equipment and communication system requires an immediate upgrade; and there are several blind spots throughout the grounds due to inadequate surveillance or the facility's architecture. All of this creates an unsafe and dangerous environment for both corrections staff and inmates.

I also learned correctional staff is working around the clock to adequately meet the facility's needs. Some have worked almost 400 overtime hours this past year. While I am grateful for their dedication and service to the state's public safety, this is an unnecessary burden placed on them, their loved ones, and the community due to lack of leadership and resources from your administration.

Just one day after our visit, there was another violent assault on staff by an inmate. The tour and Saturday's assault on staff act as proof that your administration has not taken the steps necessary to keep staff safe in the Anamosa State Penitentiary.

After the tragic deaths of Lorena Schulte and Robert McFarland just a month ago, the assault on Saturday makes clear your administration must do more immediately to keep the front line workers in our prisons safe.

As Ranking Member of the Justice Systems Appropriations Subcommittee, it is my job to provide oversight and make sure our correctional facilities are safe for all staff and inmates. To that end, I am requesting a written or in-person update to all members of the House and Senate Justice Systems Appropriations Subcommittee outlining the additional safety measures your administration has and will be implementing since the most recent assault on Saturday, April 24.

Given the high risk of additional violence and assaults in Anamosa, it's essential that you take action immediately to improve safety. Please inform us of the additional safety precautions being implemented within 48 hours, or 12:00 PM on Thursday, April 28.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marti Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Marti Anderson, Ranking Member  
Justice Systems Appropriations Subcommittee

CC: Dr. Beth Skinner, Director of Iowa Department of Corrections