

BLAKE JOHNSON

MAJORITY LEADER
SENATOR
21ST DISTRICT
(870) 323-1766
blake.johnson@senate.ar.gov

POST OFFICE BOX 8
CORNING, ARKANSAS 72422



THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

CHAIR:
STATE AGENCIES & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER:
REVENUE & TAXATION
JOINT ENERGY
RULES, RESOLUTIONS & MEMORIALS
JOINT BUDGET
ETHICS

March 7, 2024

Mr. Alonza Jiles
Arkansas Board of Corrections
Post Office Box 20550
White Hall, Arkansas 71612

Dear Mr. Jiles:

Over the past few months, at least five federal lawsuits have been filed by dozens of victims alleging that you enabled and concealed acts of child sexual abuse while working at "The Lord's Ranch" Residential Childcare Facility. In light of those numerous allegations, it is the stance of the majority of the Senate Republican Caucus that you should immediately resign from your position as a member of the Board of Corrections. Not only are you alleged to have enabled and concealed reprehensible acts against children, you are alleged to have done so while working in a position of leadership and trust. Although you are presumed innocent until proven guilty, we feel that the severity and volume of the accusations leveled against you demand an immediate response.

Your continued service as a high-ranking public official undermines the public's faith in the Board of Corrections and state government. To be sure, the allegations against you directly impugn your ability to hold offenders accountable, promote victims' interests, and foster a safe environment. It cannot be overstated that those very same objectives are fundamental to the Board of Corrections' overarching purpose; namely, "to manage correctional resources in the state such that *offenders are held accountable* for their actions, *victims' needs are addressed in a positive manner*, and *the safety of society is enhanced*. (Ark. Code Ann. § 12-27-105(a)).

Setting aside the substance of the allegations and corresponding implications, the very existence of impending complex litigation counsels in favor of your resignation. Indeed, the mental, physical, and emotional strain of defending five lawsuits over the span of what may be many months or years will inevitably divide your attention and diminish your ability to perform your role on the Board of Corrections. Not only that, but every day that you remain on the Board of Corrections exposes the institution, its members, and its staff to additional entanglement in your personal web of litigation.

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Senator Blake Johnson
March 7, 2024

Many of my fellow Senators have separate and unique concerns pertaining to your continued service on the Board of Corrections. But a common belief transcends any of our differences: your resignation is what's best for the people, and what's best for the people is what matters most to public servants. In other words, as a public servant, you should resign not because we are asking you to. You should resign because it is what's best for the people of Arkansas and for the institution through which you serve them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Blake Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Blake Johnson
Majority Leader
District 21

cc: Arkansas Board of Corrections