



Ladies of SCI: Write Your Lawmakers Guide

Our legislators were elected to represent us and our interests. Writing to a legislator may seem overwhelming at first, but it is one of the best ways to let them know what is important to you. It doesn't have to be elaborate or long. Just let them know WHY you are writing and why it is IMPORTANT to you. If you are willing to share how something affects you personally, it gives our lawmakers a better understanding of the issue and therefore allows them to advocate for you and your loved one! We recommend keeping explanations brief and factual, which allows lawmakers to check into things easily if they'd like.

Here's some suggestions to help you get started...

1. Start by telling them why you are writing.
2. Share what an Ombudsman office would mean to you – would it have helped you out with a specific situation you experienced? Give a brief example of a time you would have gone to an Ombudsman for assistance.
3. Or share a concern you have regarding Corrections and how you feel an Ombudsman can help address that concern.
4. Finish by thanking them for their time.
5. End with your full name, address, and phone number

Example:

Dear Representative Vos,

I am writing you today to ask that you support establishing an Ombudsman office for Corrections. My loved one is incarcerated, and we need a resource separate from the DOC and Governor to have our concerns heard and investigated. Creating an Ombudsman would give family members like me a place to go to when we have concerns and know it will be taken seriously.

Thank you for your support,

Jane Doe
123 Main Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 555-5555



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Write the Governor

The Governor could establish an Ombudsman office by Executive Order. Feel free to use the template below or write your own email. Again, if you are willing to share a short summary of what you or your loved one has experienced, it helps tremendously. Follow the same prompts above for writing your lawmakers but address it to the Governor. Public opinions can be submitted through this website [Home: Wisconsin Public Forms](#) > Gov – Voice an Opinion or mailed to P.O. Box 7863 Madison, WI 53707.

Example:

Dear Governor Evers,

Please consider using your Executive power to establish an Ombudsman office for the Department of Corrections. Our prisons are in crisis and it is clear that oversight and accountability are needed. You have the power to immediately bring a positive change and help people like my loved one, along with staff at each facility. Several other states and the federal government use Ombudsman offices to help protect these often overlooked communities. This is a proven method to help address the systemic issues that have reached their height in the past year. I hope you can see how this new office is well worth creating.

Thank you,

Jane Doe
123 Main Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 555-5555

Additional Examples:

Subject: Support for a Prison Ombudsman Office

Dear [Legislator's Name],

I hope you're doing well. My name is [Your Name], [*Optional:* I have a loved one incarcerated at (facility)]. I'm reaching out to ask for your support in creating a Prison Ombudsman Office here in Wisconsin.



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This office would provide a way for people in prison, their families and staff to safely raise concerns about things like [*fill in concern: healthcare, abuse, overcrowding, etc.*]. It would give them an independent place to turn and help make sure their complaints are taken seriously. [*Optional fill in: any additional details related to a personal incident or issue that you or your loved one have that having an Ombudsman office would help*]

I believe this is an important step toward making our prison system more fair and transparent. Would you be willing to support a bill to make this office a reality?

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at [Phone Number] or [Email Address] if you'd like to talk more about this.

Thank you,
[Your Name]
[Your Address]

Subject: Request for Executive Order to Create a Prison Ombudsman Office

Dear Governor Evers,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I'm writing to ask for your support in creating a Prison Ombudsman Office through an executive order.

This office would provide a way for people in prison, their families and staff to safely raise concerns about things like [*fill in concern: healthcare, abuse, overcrowding, etc.*]. It would give them an independent place to turn and help make sure their complaints are taken seriously. [*Optional fill in: any additional details related to a personal incident or issue that you or your loved one have that having an Ombudsman office would help*]

I believe this would be a positive step in improving the fairness and safety of our prisons. Would you consider using your executive authority to establish this important office?

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at [Phone Number] or [Email Address] if you'd like to discuss this further.

Best regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Address]