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PANEL 8

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MR. MCFARLAND: For our final panel of

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this hearing we have the pleasure of representatives

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from the union that governs or that represents the

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correctional officers here in California. Mr. Mike

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York will be the first witness, the union steward at

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CSP-Sacramento, and then Mr. Joe Baumann who has

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been designated by the members as the representative

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for the entire union to address questions we may

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have as well.

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Thank you, gentlemen, for being here.

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MR. BAUMANN: Thank you for the

14

opportunity.

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MR. MCFARLAND: Mr. York, you provided us

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some written comments.

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MR. YORK: Yes, sir.

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MR. MCFARLAND: And the floor is yours.

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MR. YORK: Hello. My name is Mike York.

20 I would like to thank the panel for the opportunity
21 to provide testimony in the very important issue of
22 in-custody, inmate safety and systemic changes CDCR
23 has made to eradicate in-prison sexual violence.

24 In my current assignment I am one of the
25 CSR-SAC job stewards and a correctional counselor,

1 approximately 20 years' line experience as a
2 correctional officer and six years as a union
3 steward. To address some issues that you
4 questioned, I will put forth, number one, CCP local
5 chapter supports a comprehensive program to design
6 safety for all staff and inmates.

7 We believe the factors and environment that
8 are conducive to deterrence of sexual assault
9 includes the following: inmate overcrowding;
10 unconventional housing, such as gymnasium placement;
11 physical plant limitations creating lack of
12 visibility; lack of visibility cameras and the
13 ability to have clear visibility into living areas
14 of inmates; how to scrutinize the training of
15 correctional officers and medical staff at prisons;
16 collecting training material in addition to all
17 policies that are revised, and when created should
18 be presented annually in a classroom setting.

19 These are all things that I believe would help

20 officers to better themselves. As a union steward I
21 understand the staff and inmates should be
22 accountable for any violations of policies, and each
23 individual should be held accountable for their
24 actions.

25 This concludes my written testimony. Does the

1 panel have any additional questions? And thank you
2 again.

3 MR. MCFARLAND: We may very well. I will
4 give Mr. Baumann an opportunity to make any opening
5 remarks.

6 MR. BAUMANN: Thank you. My name is Joe
7 Baumann. I've been a correctional officer for 21
8 years. I have been a union activist for the last
9 12. I am also a recording secretary for Corrections
10 USA.

11 Mr. York hit it pretty well on head:
12 overcrowding; lack of staff; lack of consistent
13 policy, both written and implementation; lack of
14 leadership. We have had incident upon incident with
15 employees being sent out to do their jobs without
16 proper safety equipment, and that trickles down to
17 the interaction between the staff. You can go to
18 the institution where you have 250 inmates triple
19 bunked, two officers on the floor. It is impossible