

Ms Holmes,

My husband has spent 15 years in 4 prisons, all of which are in small Georgia towns. Three of these are private prisons - one owned by Cornell Corrections (now GEO) and two by Corrections Corporation of America.

The small towns lobby for prisons to be built in their area to bring in jobs and federal funds from the increase in census. Private prisons in particular make promises about quality jobs, but it turns out that the pay is poor and they operate without full staff most of the time. They start out with good food and services, but they cut back after a while such that even toilet paper becomes a black market item.

In my estimation, the lure of census money from prison populations is the root of many evils, as the folks who run these towns/prisons find many ways to line their pockets. That money would be better spent in the home communities to assist returning citizens establish themselves with resources and jobs.

Granted, state prisons are often in small towns, too, but they do not operate as for-profit entities.

Sincerely,

Kathryn S Craft