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Policy Matters Response to Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction yesterday issued a statement criticizing a Policy Matters Ohio study on private- and public-prison costs. The ODRC released a table purporting to show that Ohio's two existing private prisons accomplished their legally mandated five percent annual savings over similar state facilities. However, there is nothing in the statement or new chart that backs up this assertion. The department simply declared itself to be correct, without providing an explanation for how it arrived at its numbers. This is in sharp contrast to what it earlier told investigator Bob Paynter: That the department would make available its methodology so that anyone could see it.

ODRC also stated that the Policy Matters report was incomplete. Again, it has provided no supporting information. The analysis was based on information provided by the department, including extensive interviews.

ODRC's statement has reinforced the conclusion of our report. It has not reliably demonstrated the private-prison savings required under Ohio law.

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