

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Federal receiver joins Secretary Cate in calling for Legislature
to fund realignment and prison construction**

“I join Secretary Cate in requesting the Legislature fully fund both AB 109 and AB 900, in order to comply with the Supreme Court mandate to reduce the prison population and complete the work necessary to meet federal court orders to bring health care to a constitutional level. These are tough issues, but we can no longer afford to postpone difficult decisions.

By affirming that prison overcrowding is the primary cause of the troubled prison health care system and ordering the state to implement the court order to reduce prison overcrowding without delay, the Supreme Court decision has provided the state with clear direction. We have well defined and prudent plans to continue work in meeting the court mandate to reduce the population and improve inmate health care, which includes adding much needed capacity through construction of health care facilities, renovation of existing institutions and the Governor’s realignment plan.

I will continue to work collaboratively with state and legislative leadership to resolve the issues we face, but the time to make those tough decisions is now. “

J. Clark Kelso, Receiver
California Prison Health Care Services