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I write in favor of this bill to close Long Creek and redirect its funding toward building a community center with supported housing for youth. The process of transformation must include the active and engaged participation of system-impacted youth and their families, as well as caring and involved community members with knowledge of and expertise in youth development and trauma-informed care. As a country and a state, we have the opportunity to begin to turn away from the punitive model of incarceration in which we have invested so much since the advent of the war on drugs and the war on crime, both manufactured wars to gain political power, stifle political dissent, and contain Black protest. The punitive model has spread far and wide, obfuscating other alternatives for dealing with harm and for protecting youth. We now have a better understanding of just how damaging incarceration is for youth, and we know that we cannot continue with the model we have used for the past 50 years. We absolutely must try something new to protect children and ensure they are safe, cared for, protected, and nurtured toward a future in which they can flourish. That is our responsibility as a society. Having served on the Juvenile Justice Task Force I know that it is time to change our approach to youth justice and I believe you all know it too. Please try this approach. Please invest in our youth. Please ensure that we do not send one more child to jail.