

What is Private Corrections Institute?

Who are these Privatization Opposing Groups?

Unsurprisingly, many organized, anti-privatization smear campaigns are backed by pro-labor, union-funded organizations. Many, such as the Florida-based Private Corrections Institute, among others, are funded by unions or pro-union outfits, and the figureheads of such groups have a personal stake in advancing these messages to protect their very livelihoods. They opportunistically advance their own interests beneath a guise of altruism and supposed investment in the public good. Ken Kopczynski is the Executive Director of PCI, having served the past 15 years as a Legislative and Political Affairs Assistant for the Florida Police Benevolent Association (FPBA), the largest collective bargaining agent for law enforcement, correctional and correctional probation officers in Florida. He lobbies on behalf of officers, conducts research and analysis, and provides campaign consulting.

Private Corrections Institute

PCI is a 501(c)(3) organization. According to its IRS registration, 'the organization's mission is to provide information and assistance to citizens, policy makers, and journalists concerning the dangers and pitfalls of correctional privatization.'

The organization had 7 directors in 2005, including Nashville Metro Councilmember Bo Mitchell. Mitchell is no longer listed on the PCI website. Mitchell worked for Sen. Pete Springer (D-Centerville) when Springer sponsored an AFSCME-backed bill to prevent Tennessee from housing out-of-state prisoners. The bill was defeated in committee.

PCI directors Dee Hubbard, Alex Friedmann, Stephen Rahe, Deb Phillips and Ken Kopczynski have served the organization since at least 2005.

Documents indicate PCI receives office space, free of charge, from the Florida Police Benevolent Association (FPBA). Ken Kopczynski, PCI's executive director, is the full-time lobbyist of the FPBA. He is often quoted in Florida media as a representative of the FPBA and in national media as the PCI's director.

PCI's website, PrivateCI.org, was registered by Ken Kopczynski. The site is designed and maintained by a website agency which also maintains the site for the FPBA and the State Correctional Officers Police Benevolent Association (scopba.org).

PCI recently received support from Corrections USA and from AFSCME.

<http://tnforpuryear.blogspot.com/2008/03/what-is-pci.html>