

Over time, CCA's purpose shifted to profit

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(Photo: File / Associated Press)

There was a time when I would have disagreed with Hedy Weinberg (Tennessee Voices, May 9) regarding the privatization of prisons, but her assessment of the private prison industry is totally accurate.

Early on, the motives of the founders of CCA were to provide facilities that could do it better than the government and be more cost-effective since the bidding process could be eliminated. However, as CCA grew, the shareholders became the bottom line. After 30 years of practice, the quality of service has dissipated and the bottom line is profits.

In the case of CCA, quality doesn't increase profit as noted by the vast number of lawsuits and questionable business practices. It is time for the state of Tennessee as well as Metro government to examine the question of whether contracting with CCA is in the best interest of the taxpayer. Ms. Weinberg argues a good case that needs to be seriously examined by Gov. Bill Haslam. CCA doesn't do it better than the government, but cheaper in some cases because it cuts corners.

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