

## CAN WE BUILD ENOUGH JAILS

Our society is one that demands the criminal element be held accountable for their illegal actions. This has been the norm for centuries and continues today. A conviction for violating the law results in the deprivation of one's liberty for a specific period of time.

The consequence to the tax payer is the cost of building jails and prisons and the continued operating costs of the facilities.

Here in Tulare County, the most recently built jail facility is still not operating at full capacity due to lack of personnel... and the state of California wants to build 40,000 new beds at a cost of \$7.4 billion dollars.

This is in addition to the state's current \$10 billion operating budget.

We cannot continue to pour money into incarceration without a proportionate amount of funds directed at prevention, intervention and education. The greatest investment we can make is in our youth, addressing prevention strategies and keeping them out of our jails and prisons.

I'm John Zapalac. Thanks for listening.