

"Why Doesn't Anyone Know About the Secret of Parole Abuse"

(written by old -law prisoner at Oakhill Corr Inst.)

Did you know that there are parole eligible men (truly rehabilitated men) who are being denied parole year after year?

We're not talking about an 18-year-old who committed a crime yesterday or last week, and doesn't even understand how selfish and terrifying he is to his own community and family. For he needs to be captured and rehabilitated.

The travesty we're talking about are those once 18-year-olds who have been incarcerated for 15 or 20 years so far, and have been parole eligible for the last 5 or more of those years, yet they're purposely being denied parole year after year. We're talking about men who have matured, developed an adult's perspective on life, and can clearly be seen as rehabilitated even by the most untrained eye. Men who have been model-inmates, completing several educational, vocational and life enhancing programs.

There are rehabilitated men who need help, opportunity, and support. They have family, friends, and jobs that are lined up awaiting their

arrival, but the secret hidden agenda of parole abuse is prolonging (year after year) the second chance of countless, changed, rehabilitated men who have no voice!

SCHOOLS NOT PRISONS CAMPAIGN

TAXPAYERS!!

Stop paying 20,000 to 60,000 a year per person for prisoners who are ready to be law abiding citizens.

!!!

1) Demand Fair hearings for prisoners who are rehabilitated and parole eligible

- **Enact clearly define guidelines for prisoners to follow in order to earn release.**
- **Hold real reviews of the case of men sentenced under old law and parole those who have rehabilitated themselves.**

There are many men who were sentenced before the passing of the Truth In Sentencing laws. These people were sentenced under what is called "Old- Law." They have long passed the dates where they were eligible to be free.

The DOC is using rules that contradict each other, that mandate the taking of programs that are not available, and use nebulous statements like "hasn't served enough time for punishment" to hold prisoners who are clearly ready for release.

2) Demand that more tax payer money be put into community development and crime prevention programs and less into prisons. Ask that the legislature study Minnesota's way of dealing with crime, where control of corrections is given to communities and goes into drug treatment, community services and development. They spend a fraction of the money on prisons that we do and have a comparable crime rate. We need to put taxpayers money in the hand of communities so they have the resources to produce neighborhoods that are good places to live, work, and play, making people Safe.

**Consider this: From JFA report :
-“Unlocking America”**

A generation of growth has produced prison populations that are now eight times what they were in 1970. By far the major reason for the increase in prison populations at least since 1990 has been **longer lengths of imprisonment.**

For the same crimes, American prisoners receive:

Sentences twice as long as English prisoners, three times as long as Canadian prisoners, four times as long as Dutch prisoners, five to 10 times as long as French prisoners, and five times as long as Swedish prisoners. Yet these countries' **rates of violent crime are lower** than ours, and their rates of property crime are comparable.

Some more sobering statistics and a way forward

U.S. is Number one in the world in incarceration.

The United States has less than 5% of the world's population. But it has almost a quarter of the world's prisoners.

Wisconsin's share:

In the 1990s, the Wisconsin prison population increased dramatically, 7,000 in 1990 to 20,000 in the year 2000, almost tripling.

At the same time Minnesota put it's money for corrections in the hands of the counties and evolved community prevention and educational programs that prevent crime and treat those at risk. The result: MN has a fraction of the prison population and with the same crime rate. It put it's money into good schools and community outreach programs. See the story on our website

Let us follow the Minnesota example.

1)Paroling rehabilitated prisoners who have proven themselves deserving of a second chance will save millions of dollars for Wisconsin tax payers and allow us to invest again in communities and schools.

2)Paroling rehabilitated men who have proven themselves deserving of a second chance will allow the Department of Corrections to put resources into programs that rehabilitate. At present with the overcrowding, the prisons have become mere warehouses.

There is no community safety without community responsibility.

We need to put our tax dollars here:

Safe good schools, jobs, drug treatment, community involvement with and support for young people

is the answer to the problem of crime and gangs.

Community programs, wide networks of support for returning prisoners is the answer to the problem of recidivism.

Rehabilitation, education and training needs to balance retribution in our prisons.

All these will make our communities safer as our punitive system change men who have made mistakes into mature angry, hardened criminals. Milwaukee families need their fathers, brothers at home, not in prison- The communities are shattered, the network is torn. Balance punishment with compassion and wise use of resources.

Let your representatives know how you feel:

Contacting your legislators

Wi legislative switchboard: 1-800-362-9472;
http:// www.legis.state.wi.us

Representatives' Addresses: last name a thru l:
PO Box 8952; m thru z PO Box 8953;
Madison, WI 53708
Senators' address: PO Box 7882;
Madison, WI 53707;
Governors address: Governor Doyle; PO
Box 7863, Madison, 53707

FFUP

Forum for Understanding Prisons
standing for

Prisoner support

Advocacy

Real community safety

working to bring about

Community Control of Corrections

How you can help with this campaign
Help us foster a balance between punishment and compassion in our justice system

1)Read stories and see pictures of the parole-ready men we are talking about: view our web at www.prisonforum.org
Your stories welcome also.

2)contact FFUP and help us distribute flyers and petitions

3) sign petition, write or call your legislators

3) Donations of time and money needed.

Contact FFUP at

swansol@mwat.net or call

1-608-536-3993

29631 Wild Rose Drive, Blue River, WI 53518

to put a friend or love one's story on the web

**to Join the effort to put taxpayers
dollars in places that heal our nation.**