

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Dear, Sir or Madam the reason for this letter is to appeal that someone within our judicial and legislative system to take a look at changing and revising the current mandatory 85% percent truth in sentencing law. As having a family member that is currently sentenced under this law it has not been revised since it was adapted in South Carolina in the early 1990's. With such harsh sentencing those who were sentenced under this law are not eligible for parole and good behavioral credits no longer are available. I do believe that every person despite of their previous choices should be given a second chance. Those inmates, who have managed to refrain from any disciplinary actions, write up and loss of privileges should be allowed the opportunity to be considered for parole and or credits that would reduce their sentence. Questions should be asked as to find out why haven't such issues been addressed? Why are there more people being sentenced and fewer people being released? There is a lack of concern for those inmates who have walked a straight line since they were initially sentenced and little to no effort is being made to give them a second chance.

As an advocate I do think that once a person is sentenced they should have the opportunity to have their case reviewed and have officers who are in contact with the inmate on a daily basis make recommendations. Recommendation can include good behavior credits, parole eligibility that is retroactive prior to when the law became effective, the opportunity to earn degrees and or a trade. Currently, each inmate is given a yearly review and during such reviews the inmates are not acknowledged for any behaviors or attitudes that show that the inmate is not a threat and or pose as becoming a repeated offender to those in the facility or society. Again, I am asking that more policies and bills are put in place that will allow those who are making every effort to come back into society as a productive citizen and be given a second chance. United States is built on helping those who need help and we currently have more men and women incarcerated than any other country. We need to reach our hands out and help those who want the help give them the opportunity to redeem themselves.

In conclusion, we the people are the voice of the government and we are crying out that more be done to ensure that families are connected back and that our loved ones are given a second chance at life and once they are released having the skills and confidence of being welcomed back in society as productive citizens.