

Dear Governor Nikki Haley,

My name is Zachary Kerr and I have been incarcerated for 2 years in SCDC. I am currently at ME2 custody level at Turbeville because of phone charges. I was arrested Manufacturing Meth which I used to support my drug habit. I have been an addict since I was 12 and I am currently 28. Before I came to Turbeville I was at Wateree where I found AA, an electrical class, and a plumbing class to try and fill my time. Neither of these were very thorough and were generally hit or miss as to whether or not we even had class. After getting in trouble I was sent to Turbeville, where I have been since February. I have been trying to secure some kind of job, drug abuse counseling and/or mental health counseling. I have made numerous attempts at each of these through the inmate kiosk, written requests to staff and some attempts in person, with no luck. I was told by my caseworker that I would have to remain at ME status for 2 years with no possibility of working it back down. Here at Turbeville there is no AA, or any other classes for straight timers to become involved in. I tried numerous times to get a job in the kitchen, ~~or~~ I saw the paperwork written up but

was never received. I am currently a dorm keeper's assistant along with at least 50 other inmates in my dorm which is basically no job. It generally has between 5 to 7 people, sometimes less to upkeep the dorm during count times, I do not understand the correction if I'm constantly asking for a way to better myself only to be denied. Many of us feel hopeless here because we are generally locked in our rooms 75% of the time and only go outside to walk to the cafeteria and back. The outside recreation fields have not been open since July of last year. My reason for contacting you is because I'm tired of being a statistic. My release date is next March 1st and I fear that without the right guidance that I will end up back in the lifestyle I lived before being arrested. I have not had a job since March 2015 and feel that having a job helps keep you out of trouble. What you do over time becomes habit, you cannot expect someone who hasn't worked in years to get out and be productive. For weeks at a time we are locked in our rooms getting showers maybe once a week eating cold trays 3 times a day during the

week and only 2 on the weekends. We should have programs and incentives to gear us toward being productive citizens. I have seen many people become addicts in prison because it is there only way to cope with doing this time, they feel hopeless and have nothing to do. This seems to be backwards to the rehabilitation process, in fact most become worse after leaving then what they were when they came. I have been sober an entire year and feel I still need guidance and opportunity if I am to become someone once I am released. I don't have family that is sober enough for me to be around. I need real opportunity to change my life in order to stop living in and out of institutions. My children need at least one parent in their life that is a positive role model. You seem to be a person who likes to make a difference and I hope by relaying my personal experience you might help us. Not only for people like me struggling with addiction but people in prison all over South Carolina. Please help us find a better way of life.

Sincerely,

Zachary A. Kerr