

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Sir or Madam,

Currently, I am incarcerated within South Carolina Department of Corrections and we recently were notified that all inmates who were previously on restriction such as the loss of canteen, phone and visitation privileges will now be receiving what is called a second chance throughout all institutions within South Carolina. Meanwhile, inmates such as myself who has not received any disciplinary actions or write ups are not going to receive any incentives and are not be noticed for choosing to serve their time in a way that demonstrates change and growth towards returning back into society as productive citizen.

I respect that everyone deserves a second chance the question being raised is what about those who use their first chance as if it were their only? I would like there to be some consideration on this issue to offer those inmates such as myself and others who have served their time complied with all rules, policies and procedures to be considered for more work credits and good behavior credits that will reduce the amount of time the inmate has. Develop programs that will offer those inmates the opportunity to gain and earn skills that can be used in society. Offer more jobs in all institutions where an inmate has potential of earning an income to become self-sufficient and productive.

In conclusion, being an inmate does not define who I am or what I will become. This has been a hard life lesson that I had to learn and with saying that daily I choose to make the decision to be and inspire others to think differently when they think of a prisoner. We as inmates have been looked down and all are placed in a group as a whole. I beg to differ people can change and all I am asking is that more is done for those who are doing right and less be taken from those who openly choose to respect and serve their time without causing a disturbance or uproar. I greatly appreciate you taking time to consider the issues and concerns within our prison system here in South Carolina.

Respectfully yours, Curtis T. Johnson, 337543

Curtis T. Johnson
SCDC Inmate

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Sir or Madam,

Recently , it has been brought to many family members attention that those who are currently incarcerated within South Carolina Department of Corrections that all inmates who were previously on restriction such as the loss of canteen, phone and visitation privileges will now be receiving what is called a second chance throughout all institutions within South Carolina. Meanwhile, those inmates who have not received any disciplinary actions or write ups are not going to receive any incentives and are not be noticed for choosing to serve their time in a way that demonstrates change and growth towards returning back into society as productive citizens.

While respecting that everyone deserves a second chance the question being raised is what about those who use their first chance as if it were their only? I would like there to be some consideration on this issue to offer those inmates who have served their time and can be classified or considered as "role or ideal prisoner to be considered for more earn credits or good behavior credits that will reduce the amount of time the inmate has, introduce programs that will offer those inmates the opportunity to gain and earn a trade and or skill that can be used in society. Offering, more jobs in all facilities where an inmate has potential of earning an income to become self-sufficient, reliable, and responsible.

In conclusion, there are inmates who strive daily to make good choices despite of their current circumstance and location are looking for hope that one day things will change within the prison system that will allow those who are inmates to be looked at as an individual and not as a group or whole. Currently, all facilities when one inmate breaks a rule or does not comply with policy or procedures all inmates are punished. Leaving everyone held accountable for someone else actions.

I would greatly appreciate all of these factors to be taken a look at and take each recommendation under consideration. Just as your new policy is giving some a second chance I am asking for you to think of all those who are still using their first one. There is a lot that goes on within prison walls and all those who are willing to continue to stay focused, positive and working towards growth and chance should be looked at with a new glance.

With Best Regards

Elizabeth Richardson
Elizabeth Richardson

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.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Richardson
Elizabeth Richardson