

I am respectfully requesting your support of HB 1104. Currently, inmates are required to serve 85% of their sentence. HB 1104 will change the rule to 65%. I urge the passing of this bill because my son who was/has been incarcerated at the Ward County Jail and the North Dakota State Penitentiary for seventeen plus years would be released in approximately two years (65%) instead of eight plus years (85%). Zach has never been unruly, uncooperative or violent. Instead, Zach tries to be productive by working at Roughrider Industry and has taken college courses when offered by the NDSP.

Zach, and many other inmates, are not dangerous or a threat to public safety and are NOT likely to be repeat offenders. Inmates who have served 65% of their sentence, without incident, are redeemable, not disposable.

Statistics show that inmates serving long sentences for violent crime have a lower recidivism rate than non-violent offenders and after serving at least fifteen years in prison, the recidivism rate drops to almost zero.

Finally, I again urge you to support and pass this legislation.