

To All Concerned Legislators:

I am writing to you in support of HB 1104 for the following reasons:

- A. Citizens incarcerated for a crime for an extended period of time can choose to use their sentence for either self improvement upon reentry into society or retain negative behaviors which is why they were incarcerated.
 - 1. One indicator of their self improvement is their positive behavior exhibited while in prison. This is indicative through their evaluations provided by the guards and supervisors in various departments the citizen is involved in.
 - 2. Another indicator is their willingness to be productive by choosing to work in a life skills area, dedication to provide a quality product, and by setting high goals for their self motivation and improvement.
- B. Citizens who exhibit society accepted behaviors and beliefs should be given a reprieve of the time on their sentence as an incentive to not just serve out their sentence, but to work harder to earn their re-entry into society earlier.
 - 1. A reduction of the present minimum time that must be served of 85% of their sentence would be a huge incentive for prisoners to “see the light at the end of the tunnel” and give them a positive reason to stay focused on their goal.
 - 2. Dropping the minimum time from the currently 85% to a proposed 65% would be that huge work incentive for the inmates.
 - 3. Inmates with specific training, talents, and vocations would be valuable additions to society looking for citizens with those talents and work ethic.
- C. The benefits to society of an earlier release would be multifold.
 - 1. Trained candidates for specific positions are in high demand in our workforce.
 - 2. The income earned by the new hire will provide monetary benefits for property owners, businesses, and recreational facilities.
 - 3. The cost to us taxpayers would be less due to decreased populations in the prison, less facility addition cost, and more employees paying their fair share of taxes and fees.

To sum up my belief in passing a reduction in a minimum sentence requirement, I state that with positive recommendations from guards and supervisors, inmates will have the incentive to be released earlier than 85% of their original sentence served.

I ask and urge you to give careful consideration to this very important proposed legislation. It will make a world of difference for the inmates, their families, and friends. We need their talents and time. Reward them for their time served. Please vote to pass HB 1104

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to managing our great state.

Sincerely,

Craig M. Eraas