

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in regards to and support of North Dakota HB 1104, reducing the rule of 85% to 65% and how it can be used more effectively and beneficially for violent offenders and the state.

The 85% rule was initially implemented to get federal funding and deter criminals. The federal funding has led to North Dakota increasing an already full prison system. This in turn causes the need to expand facilities in order to meet the capacity problem. As a taxpayer, I would prefer to see my hard earned money go towards the releasing of violent offenders at the 65% mark of their sentence rather than watching the state institutionalize them to a deeper level while maintaining the 85% rule. I would prefer to see funding go towards the rehabilitation of violent offenders than financing additional facilities and housing increased populations. Not only are the institutions overpopulated they are understaffed. The financial burden to the state that the rule of 85% has caused needs to be considered on all levels.

Our First Lady of North Dakota is a strong advocate for drug and alcohol addiction programs. Could these programs be tied into the DOCR to create better rehabilitation for our inmates, regardless of the crime? This could potentially lead to less reoffending and a better support system upon release. If the rule of 85% was reduced to 65% violent offenders could benefit from these programs as well.

Everyone loves a story of overcoming. Why not make North Dakota the birthplace of actual correcting and rehabilitating within our correctional system. Please, reduce the rule of 85% to 65% and witness many of the valuable men and women sitting behind bars become great assets to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tracy W. Arneson
Brother-in-Law To An Inmate Serving 85%