

I'm writing you in regards to the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act. We have received a memo about the plans to potentially implement a system where we may have the opportunity to return home to our loved ones sooner. I have noticed a very positive response and I agree to the impact it can make to families in Minnesota. You have taken, in my opinion a good step in the direction of creating an environment where incarcerated individuals will use their time in prison to learn their flaws and successfully integrate into society. My reason for writing you is to applaud you as well as a plead for the potentially forgotten from this plan to allow incarcerated individuals to earn their freedom through rehabilitation.

When I heard about the proposal to allow us a chance of earning early release from prison, I was elated initially. This has huge potential to change the lives of so many people who have made a mistake and are desperate to learn how to change their behavior. What had me at a loss for words is that it has a major exclusion from this privilege. Namely violent and sexual crimes. In my opinion I feel it would be wise to look at it with a wider scope. I'm going to give you reasons why it would be beneficial to look at each person's case as unique and not to do a blanket denial of a large group of individuals who may have worked extremely hard during their incarceration to improve themselves.

In my scenario I am convicted of 2nd Degree Murder which I agree is a serious charge not to be taken lightly. However if you look into my past criminal ^{record} it is virtually nonexistent. When I was 18 years old I received a petty misdemeanor and after that I haven't had as

much as a speeding ticket, let alone get pulled over by the police. I made an extremely bad decision that resulted in the unintentional loss of another man's life. Every day since I've been charged I have made it my life's mission to one day be able to look into the eyes of my victim's family and not just apologize, but to truly show how much that day affected me and how I can't go a single day without thinking about how much harm I have caused them. I want to understand what they've gone through since that day. I want to show them how much I've been learning and changing to hopefully become a successful citizen when I return to society, and to talk to members in my community to help prevent what took place that day from happening to other families.

I have been incarcerated a total of almost 5 years, but it doesn't mean I've been spending my prison time idly. I haven't been disciplined or sent to segregation since being locked up in prison. I have completed multiple faith based groups. Received an upholstery certificate. Once I turned medium custody level I came to Lino Lakes and completed Restorative Justice 101 and waiting on a 201 group. Completed PFA (Prison Fellowship Academy) formerly IFI, which is a year long program and we had to voluntarily give up our TVs for 9 months to work on ourselves at the time. After PFA I attended C-Tech, a Network Cabling Specialist class and graduated on the President's List with a 97%. After C-Tech I got a job in maintenance as an Electrician, where I receive hours as an Electrician Apprentice with the Department of Labor. I also go to therapy and spend a great deal of my time reading spiritual books, or books to improve my character. Whenever there is a chance

to take a group to learn more about becoming a better person or a chance to learn about myself I do my best to complete it. In the future I hope the DOC provides more programs to help us become better people.

I'm not sure exactly how narrow the criteria is, but from what I assume is that this program will mainly apply to drug offenses. While I agree every individual should have the opportunity to return home early, from what I have witnessed is those with drug offenses are very likely to come back to prison. Thus going out into the community and causing more harm to families and themselves, only to return to prison. I feel it would make sense to allow all individuals that have made an earnest attempt at improving themselves and staying out of trouble a fair chance at earned release. It would be good to look at each person's situation uniquely and provide the chance to go home early based on their history and performance in prison, not strictly based on their charge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping letters that appear to be 'PBB'.