

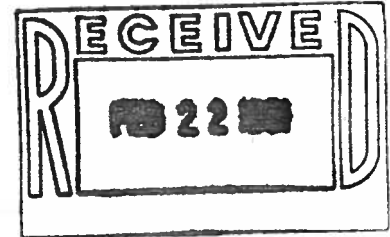
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Thomas R. Caltagirone, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
House of Representatives  
South Office Building, Room 214  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Chairman Caltagirone,

It has come to my attention that serious consideration is being given to the abolishment of Pennsylvania's Parole Board, and a complete reliance on a determinate sentencing system. I hope you will do everything possible to carefully evaluate this proposal before making such a change. I have been involved in corrections at the state and federal levels for over forty years, and write to you out of professional concern.

Determinate sentencing has failed wherever it has been adopted. I come from California, which pioneered the abolition of parole boards, and after careful research of the results it has been found that determinate sentencing:

- \* Did not provide truth in sentencing.
- \* Did not reduce crime.
- \* Did not enhance public protection.
- \* Did not provide equity or fairness in sentencing.
- \* Did not eliminate disparity in prison release.

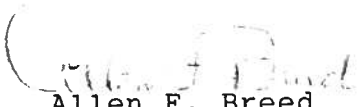
What determinate sentencing did in California was to make California the largest and most crowded prison system in the world, and released many dangerous offenders early!

In a brief letter I cannot begin to adequately analyze the pros and cons of sentencing and release procedures. I can, however, strongly state that Pennsylvania has excellent sentencing (minimum) guidelines and utilizes a professional body to make intelligent release decisions within a carefully developed policy framework. If there have been pro-

blems with the process, correct them through legislation - but don't eliminate the only responsible prison release mechanism that exists today.

If I can be of assistance in gathering information for your committee's review please don't hesitate to call on me. If a witness before your committee would be of help I would urge you to contact Mr. Benjamin Baer, Chairman, U. S. Parole Commission, Washington, D.C., who can tell you first hand of the tragedies caused by the elimination of the parole release process.

Yours truly,

  
Allen F. Breed

AFB/vb