

To The Committee,

I am Nancy Frantz and the Mother of an incarcerated Son. Since August 24, 1993, he has served 7 years and 1 month, of a 4 to 10 year sentence.

Please consider because of my testifying the possibility of retaliation that could happen against my son, my husband and myself, due to testifying here today. I ask that you consider notifying the DOC and the PBPP, letting them know that retaliation will not be tolerated, as has happened in the past to both my Son and Husband due to his testifying.

What I want to tell you today is from a Mothers point of view and how the decisions of the Institutions, DOC and the PBPP effects the lives of not only the inmates, but of the families also.

The inmates deal with the DOC staff every day for years and their only look at the future is to the Parole Board Review. They get excited, as does the families also, praying for a favorable review, hoping that someone is going to give the inmate a fair and impartial chance.

Is there any Parole Agent at the Institutions or the ones that come from Harrisburg Office that looks at the records and says what is going on here? Surely, they can read and see that every one of the inmates are not problems and that maybe they should be given a chance to show that they can be returned to society and live a productive life. When they have done all they are suppose to and yet year after year are being turned down, someone on the Parole Board should have enough common sense to say wait a minute something is wrong here.

In October 1999, I was part of a small group that met with Mr. Thomas James of the DOC. He informed the group that the Sexual Offenders program was only an 18 month course. Are the Parole Agents knowledgeable of these requirements? It doesn't seem like they are, most inmates have completed years of the sexual offenders program and then are removed by the Institution, to be turned down by the Parole Board, because they are not in certain programs. Then when the green sheet arrives, it states, "must participate in prescribed programs, maintain clean conduct Even if the inmates are doing this, they are turned down by the Institutions and the Parole Agent, who do not look any further to see if there is some reason that this inmate may still be released and get back into being a productive citizen. They have completed every program required of them, plus a few that they volunteered for, being told that it would help them earn parole. But in the end is not true.

Then there are the inmates that are approved by the Institutions and still are turned down by the Parole Board. What is that all about, what do they base the turn down on when the Institution that has supervised them approves them.

Now the Parole Board tells them that they are going to have them accessed by a special board to review them and then the board will make a decision. Instead they give them another green sheet, giving them another hit. And again it says, must participate in prescribed programs and maintain a clean record.

These men and woman are encouraged by their families to do their best, so they have the outside support. But yet at one Institution they are told that they would not be put back in the programs and by so doing would see that the inmate maxi's out their time. My husband has records of many such actions at several Institutions by Staff members.

In April 1999, I was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma cancer of the bone marrow with a life expectancy of only 3 to 4 years. My husband has a bad heart and kidney disease. There is another lady we know that is in a wheelchair, her husband is incarcerated serving a 4 to 10 year and well over his minimum at 7 years, age 63, he also is not in good health. A first time offender, with a good incarceration record and he also, keeps getting hits for the reasons stated above.

This problem is not in just the hundreds, it is in the thousands across this State. Our Son as others, could be a help to us and at the sametime earn his right back into society, by working, paying taxes and showing society that he has paid his debt.

There seems to be a competition between the DOC and the Parole Board to see which one can be the most difficult, using inmates as pawns. As Mother's we would like to know why these two departments can not work together with the same goals and guidelines.

The Parole Agents, who are suppose to come to the home, lie and give false reports, never coming near the home. Thereby, making the misinformation word enough for the Parole Board to turn anyone down again for parole. These same agents have come into homes of families and have been rude, obnoxious and downright foul mouthed to the families. They try to humiliate the families and friends of the inmates and actually try to get the families members to say they don't want the inmate to come home. There is no reason for this and it must stop.

Then the inmate must deal with the Parole Agent for probation. The agent will try their best to violate the person to return him/her to prison, to satisfy their own egos and again to act as another judge and jury, over the person.

Thank you for your time today. Please do something to stop this injustice to the inmates, by the Institutional Staff, Department of Corrections and Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and their agents.

Nancy G. Frantz
3130 Trolley Bridge Circle
Quakertown, PA 18951

Phone: 215-536-9098
Fax: 215-538-9779