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The United States Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle
Suite 2-500, South Lobby
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002
Attn: Public Affairs - Priorities Comment

RE: 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) Policies for Reduced Sentences and Home Electronic Monitoring

Dear Commissioners:

As you know, the United States prison population is vastly larger per capita, than every other civilized nation in the world. The federal budget alone for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is extremely burdensome on taxpayers, not to mention the high costs associated with the many federal agencies involved in law enforcement and prosecution, the cost of judiciary (which is woefully underfunded for its current mission), the U.S. Marshalls Service, and the cost of pretrial housing primarily in county jails nationwide. The growth in the federal prison population far exceeds the overall growth nationally and yet studies continue to show lengthy prison sentences do not deter crime, inversely affect rehabilitation, and destroy families.

The fiscal year 2014 Budget requests a total of \$8.5 billion for federal prisons and detention, a 3.5 percent increase over the FY 2012 appropriated level. Of this amount, \$6.9 billion is requested for the BOP, which is a 4 percent increase (\$195.1 million) over fiscal year 2012. \$1.6 billion is requested for the Federal Prisoner Detention appropriation, which is a 3.5 percent increase (\$54.9 million) over the fiscal year 2012, enacted detention funding level (not including rescission of balances). – Sourced from the US Department of Justice.

We have the technology to allow economical home-confinement as an alternative for all non-violent offenders, which facilitates rehabilitation and keeps families together for the benefit of their children. The Mandatory Restitution Act of 1996 would have its meaning restored, if court-ordered restitution was collected from offenders on Home Electronic Monitoring (HEM) instead of wasting away, unproductively, in prison.

I highly encourage the Commission to allow reduced sentence lengths, retroactively, and to allow for HEM for all non-violent sentences. There is no valid reason to keep housing non-violent offenders at whatever cost per day, per inmate, when our government is borrowing \$1 trillion per year to fund operations. Please issue a policy statement allowing reduced sentences to apply retroactively to those currently incarcerated, and to allow HEM under 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

Thank you,


Stephen Clark Rogers, Esq.