

July 31, 2017

U.S. Sentencing Commission
Office of Public Affairs
One Columbus Circle, NE
Suite 2500, South Lobby
Washington, DC, 20002-8002

Dear Judge Saris and Members of the Commission,

I'm writing in response to the Commission's request for public comment on priorities that should be addressed during this year's amendment cycle. I strongly encourage the Commission to pursue its stated top priority of continuing to work with Congress on the statutory mandatory minimum penalties that were previously outlined in the 2011 report to Congress titled: Mandatory Minimum Penalties in the Criminal Justice System.

On behalf of Mercy Me 924(c) and Strong Prison Wives & Families, Inc. we represent more than 60,000 family members of the incarcerated; 1,200 of which have been directly affected by the unjust "stacking" of 924(c).

Among our members, Marcus Major is serving a sentence of 8,919 months, or 743 years and 3 months. His sentence is the result of TWENTY-FOUR counts of "stacking" 924(c)'s.

Ian Owens was sentenced to 117 years and 7 months. 105 of those years were assigned to him due to the "stacking" of 924(c) violations.

Adam Clausen is serving a sentence of 213 years. Although the sentencing guideline was only 97 to 110 months, Adam received 8 years for the underlying crime and an additional 205 years for stacked 924(c)'s.

Larry Daniel Harris is serving a 95-year sentence; 10 years for the underlying crime and 85 years for stacked 924(c)s.

Gregory M. Rose was sentenced to 90 years. He received 8 years for the robbery offenses and 82 years for the gun that was involved in the individual robberies, although he never physically possessed the weapon himself.

Michael Eugene Stewart received 5 years for the underlying crime and 240 additional months for stacked 924(c)s.

There are thousands of inmates with enhanced sentences due to improper "stacking" of 924(c). This is not a just application of the law. Mandatory minimum applications result in ridiculously long and punitive sentences, which are exorbitantly expensive.

I suggest that the Commission focus on eliminating the "stacking" provision of section 924(c) and then upon ensuring that any subsequent amendment is made to apply retroactively.

Thank you for your consideration,

DeVon Moss