

August 14, 2010

Hon. William K. Sessions, III, Chair.  
United States Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Suite, 2-500, South Lobby  
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002

Dear Judge Sessions:

My name is Raymond L. Cooper Jr. #02697-424, and I humbly pray that this letter find you and your staff in the best of health and good spirit by the help of Almighty God.

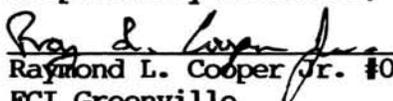
I write to you today, thanking you for your efforts with helping pass the '**crack reform**' bill S. 1789! This remarkable action on your part will help save so many lives and set things back in order after so many years of injustice. Though I believe there is much more work that needs to be done, still, this is a wonderful step in the right direction Judge Sessions. Your efforts and dedication for justice for all is felt in my heart and I sincerely thank you Sir.

I was sentence to thirty (30) years for a '**crack**' case, and I pray that this bill will be applied retroactively! In my humble opinion, S. 1789 cannot be a "**Fair Sentencing Act**" if this bill doesn't apply to the loved ones who help advocate this bill. To say that we are left out, the husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, languishing behind bars due to Congress's 24 year old mistake, will be a big slap in the face to the minority communities. I believe the time is now Judge Sessions, for this mistake to be corrected and the hash sentences imposed by Congress mistakes.

Please take my concerns into deep consideration, and I urge you to make this new law fair for thos of us who sit in these prisons and watch our lives pass away each passing day. Judge Session, its like spectating your own funeral with your eyes open in prison for 10, 20, 30 years for a law that was unfair.

I thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read my words. May God continue to use you and the many other's in the days ahead, to help restore justice for all Americans.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Raymond L. Cooper Jr. #02697-424  
FCI Greenville  
P.O. Box 5000  
Greenville, Illinois 62246

August 9, 2010

Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Washington, DC, 20002-8002

Samuel Tirado #61335054  
FCI Fairton  
PO Box 420  
Fairton, NJ 08320

To the Honorable Sentencing Commission,

I'm writing on behalf of my boyfriend, Samuel Tirado. I've known Sammy for 6 years and he has been through a lot. He was raised in a world of dealing drugs and it's all he's ever known. But from the time I met him he was trying to stay straight and live a good life and take care of his children. I knew the first time I met him that he had a good heart. He was not living the life he was born to live. Soon after I met him he started working for a vineyard in Northeast PA when he was laid off because the position was seasonal and started a job at Country Fair. This was not easy for him. He was used to making a lot of money and having no problems paying child support and bills. He always took care of his family. Then a warrant was issued for his arrest for back child support and he started dealing to pay that support. He just couldn't provide for his family making minimum wage. He was arrested and sentenced under the mandatory minimum laws to 13 years and is not scheduled to be released until 11/10/20. This seems unfair considering the crime he committed was non violent and this was his first offense. He is doing his best in jail to stay out of the gangs and out of trouble. He is taking as many classes as he can including Aquaculture, Anger Management and Ceramics. He emails me all the time that he is so excited about these classes and he can't wait to send me vases and things he is making in class. He also has big plans for when he gets out. I live in Cranesville Pa and I have a big yard. He loves his aquaculture class and wants to build a pond and raise fish. He has been keeping abreast of the oil spill disaster in the gulf and wants to start a career raising fish that are not contaminated. When his class is finished he will have an apprenticeship and is very much looking forward to living somewhere where there is peace and quiet and having the time and opportunity to put all he has learned to good use and be a productive member of society. I have faith in him and have seen some very positive changes in him. I trust that he has learned from losing his freedom and being away from his and my children. He refers to my 2 daughters as his own and they call him dad as well. Their father is not really there for them and they are very excited about having him as a part of our family. He knows that when he is released he will have to cut ties with most of his family and friends and he is willing to do so. It will be a major sacrifice for him but he knows that losing me and the girls would be the worst thing any of us could go through. I will keep him busy and out of trouble!

I work full time for AT&T Mobility. I am a single mother and have raised my girls alone since I left my now ex husband due to physical and mental abuse and his sexual indiscretion in 1999. Sammy loves my girls and would be a huge help to me in raising them. I can do it alone but I don't want to. I have never had a run in with the law and I believe that I have been a positive influence in Sammy's life over the past 6 years and I am certain that if we had been together and not just friends when he was working at Country Fair he would not have ended up in jail. He always came to me for advice and tried his hardest to take what I had to say to heart. I believe with all my heart that he felt he had no other options when he committed his crime. I also believe that now he knows that he does have options. He

has a family out here waiting for him. He looks at me as a role model for some reason and will do his best not to disappoint me or hurt me by going back to prison. We live in Cranesville and will never live in the city so the people who have been dragging Sammy down his entire life will not have easy access to him. It will be easy for him to stand on his own and learn how to say no to them knowing that he has me by his side to love and support him. Knowing he has a family depending on him instead of just using him for whatever they can get out of him makes a huge difference. He knows now who truly cares about him. He has had very little contact with most of his family since he went in. The people that he spent his whole life caring for and providing for are not supporting him and have not been there for him.

He was originally housed in FCI McKean and I would have been able to see him on a regular basis. My sister lives in Rixford PA and I could have stayed with her and visited Sammy at least once a month. I would have been able to take my 2 daughters who he loves like his own to see him as well as his own children who live in Erie Pa. The first week he was there I finally got a phone call and he told me where he was. My brother in law happens to be a corrections officer at FCI McKean and his name came up in conversation. All I said was that Mike worked there and what his name was. That same day Sammy was scheduled to be moved. He was eventually moved to FCI Fairton in Fairton NJ. Now he is 8 hours away and it is extremely expensive and difficult to find time to see him since I work in a retail job and am scheduled most weekends. I have to find a hotel and pay for gas to drive from Cranesville Pa to NJ. My girls are in desperate need of a male father figure in their lives and they have become very close to Sammy over the last year. They write back and forth and were so excited about our last trip to see him. Unfortunately on our way there, 7/16/10, we hydroplaned during a rainstorm and totaled our Explorer and were unable to make the trip. They were devastated apart from being injured in the wreck. And I am terrified of driving now. Visiting him gives him something to look forward to. I believe its positive reinforcement and inspires him. He tells me all the time that having the girls and I out here waiting for him encourages him and makes him want to be a better man and I believe he is. He wants to be able to provide for his children and would be a tremendous help for me to have him home. One of my girls is in high school this year and the other is in her last year of middle school. It would put my mind at ease to have a father figure in their lives on a regular basis. They look to him for advice now and I know he would be a positive influence in their lives. He is at rock bottom at this point and he will be just as up front and honest with them as I am. They will have just as much influence in keeping him on the straight and narrow as I will and I think he will do the same for them.

I am writing to ask that you consider reducing Sammy's sentence. He was charged and sentenced under an unfair and unjust mandatory minimum sentencing requirement that has now been reformed! We are all hoping and praying for leniency and that this law will be made retroactive. We ask that you use your good judgment to give Sammy, and in turn give us, a second chance to be a productive member of society and to give something back. He wants nothing more than to be able to be a part of his children's lives. He's desperate to get out so he can encourage them to live a good life and stay in school and make something of themselves and not make the same mistakes he has made. He wants to be there for them so they do not grow up thinking he abandoned them. Being back with his children would keep Sammy from becoming a repeat offender and from becoming an inmate. He wants so badly to be free and to help me and our girls be healthy, happy and not struggling to pay bills. I appreciate your attention to his case.

Sincerely, *Krista M. Askins*

Krista M. Askins

9891 Bateman Ave Cranesville, Pa 16410

814-323-7578

TO WHOMEVER THIS MAY CONCERN:

I AM A FIRST TIME, NON-VIOLENT OFFENDER. I WAS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT 2004. AT THE TIME OF SENTENCING THE JUDGE HANDED DOWN AN  $\checkmark$  ALTERNATIVE OF 60 MONTHS BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO GIVE ME THE THE MANDATORY MINIMUM OF 10yrs, FOR DISTRIBUTING OVER 50 GRAMS OF CRACK.

NOW I HEAR IT IS UP TO THIS COMMISSION  $\checkmark$  WHETHER THIS NEW 18:1 RATIO WILL APPLY RETROACTIVELY. I PRAY IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE IT IS.

ALSO CAN I BE PLACED ON YOUR MAILING LIST, AND CAN YOU PLEASE UPDATE ME ON THIS BILL, AND IF POSSIBLE SEND ME A WRITTEN COPY.

THANK YOU,

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

RONNIE HARGRAVES

#17105-045

U.S. PENITENTIARY

P.O. BOX 1000

LEWISBURG, PA. 17837

From: KEITH RUSSELL JUDD For President of USA 2012, [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)  
Reg.#11593-051, Unit K-2  
Federal Correctional Institute  
P.O. Box 7000  
Texarkana, Texas, 75505

Date: August 7, 2010

To: Office of Public Affairs  
UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Washington, D.C., 20002-8002  
(202)502-4500

Re: Cocaine Sentencing Disparity Reduction in Fair Sentencing Act of 2010

Dear Sir or Maddam:

I am writing with regards to the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 and the Cocaine Sentencing Disparity Reduction, Section 2.

This new law of Congress is supposed to reduce the sentence calculation for **Crack-Cocaine Base** in an **18 to 1 ratio** with Powder Cocaine.

Section 8, Emergency Authority For United States Sentencing Commission, requires the Commission to promulgate the guidelines and policy statements or amendments to conform to the new law.

My question is: Will the 18 to 1 ration be applicable to sentenced inmates in the form of a retroactive Amendment to the Guidelines ?

It appears from the Savings Statute, 1 U.S.C. § 109, that the New Law will not be retroactive to inmates already sentenced under the Old Crack Law.

Please provide me with information on whether the Cocaine Sentencing Disparity Reduction will be made **retroactive**.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH,



KEITH RUSSELL JUDD

FEC#C00302919, at, 1-800-424-9530  
[www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov) 1-800-872-9855

[www.GemStateVoterGuide.com](http://www.GemStateVoterGuide.com)

United States Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Suite 2-500, South Lobby  
Washington, DC 20002-8002

In Re: 2007 Amendments To The Sentencing Guidelines

Dear Sir.

Recently I filed a motion for modification of sentence under 28 U.S.C Section 3582 (c) (2), seeking for the District Court to apply the newly implemented retroactive Amendments to the U.S.S.G to my case.

On January 5<sup>th</sup> the District Court denied my motion sighting the governments opposition that I was sentenced to more than 4.5 kilograms of crack cocaine, and therefore my sentence was unaffected by the retroactive Amendments to the U.S.S.G.

Following the Courts Order I researched the Amendments the Sentencing Commission submitted to Congress for their approval. Where I discovered that the Commissions reasoning for Amending the Guidelines relating to crack cocaine sentences were prompted by the overall consensus that there exists an unfair disparity for how crack cocaine verses powder cocaine sentences are administered to defendants under the sentencing guidelines. A fact which has been determined by even the United States Justice Department, to undermine public confidence in the Judicial system.

While applauding the courage of the Commission to even undertake such a task in a "be tough on crime environment". I nonetheless find myself extremely perplexed at how the changes advanced by the Commission to the Sentencing Guidelines affords relief to some defendants, while others (like myself) are left to endure the sufferings from the disparity that the Commission has sought to alleviate by Amending the Guidelines in the first instance.

Especially when considering the fact that my sentence of 360 months under level 38 of the Sentencing Guidelines was imposed in November of 1992, Pre-Apprendi, Blakely, and Booker. Which are all cases that provided Constitutionally Protected Rights for defendants whose cases involved sentencing issues that potentially could expose them to increased penalties under the U.S.S.G. None of which were deemed retroactively applicable to those of us whose convictions became final prior to these cases being decided. And now the Commission has denied access to the retroactively applicable amendments to the U.S.S.G. level 38 defendants.

As such, I am one of the many defendants who continues to painstakingly endured the harsh penalties associated with the disparity of crack cocaine sentencing policies. Furthermore, I've demonstrated a willingness to progressively maintain a record of clear

United States Sentencing Commission

One Columbus Circle, N.E.

Suite 2-500, South Lobby

Washington, DC 20002-8002

Attn: Michael Courlander, Public Affairs Officer

Subject: Retroactivity for S. 1789/ Amended Crack Guidelines

Dear Honorable William K. Sessions III

It is to my knowledge that S. 1789 the "Fair Sentencing Act" gives the USSC emergency authority to amend the guidelines to reflect the change in the new law. In the near future when the USSC exercise its authority, I am in full support of any and all changes being applied retroactively.

I have a loved one currently serving a harsh crack penalty, and I am very grateful for the Sentencing Commission's stance throughout the years on this issue. Relief for those serving time under the 100:1 disparity is long overdue. I am aware of the Commission's history on trying to reverse this disparity, and I share the same views of the USSC. So there's no need for me to go into detail on why the new amended crack guidelines should be retroactive.

I am appreciative and proud of your dedication towards restoring fairness in our Judicial System. And I am very excited about the possibility of my loved one coming home a little earlier than expected. I would like to take this moment to say thank you to Honor, and to each and every member of the USSC. May God Bless.

Address: 171-06 108TH AVE  
Somerville MA  
01932

Respectfully Yours



Date 8/8, 2010

From: Concerned Citizen

4/2/10  
Date

To: All Concerned Parties  
President Obama, Speaker N. Pelosi,  
Speaker H. Reid, Senator P. Leahy,  
Representative D. Davis, Senator R. Durbin,  
Attorney General E. Holder, Black Caucus,  
Senators, Representatives, NAACP,  
FAMM, ACLU, FED Cure,  
Sentencing Project, et. al.

Dear Respective Parties:

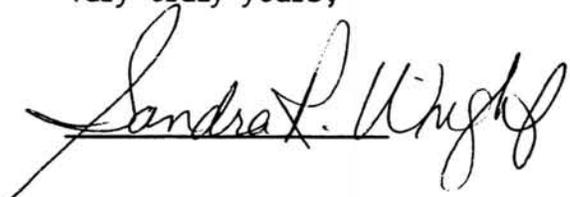
As a citizen of a GREAT NATION that has come together at a time when public confidence in democracy and our judiciary has been called into question and smothered in doubt, I would like to extend my gratitude to the many individuals, groups, organizations, and others, for the courageous and victorious stance and passage of a much needed legislation in the form of the Health Care bill. Your work and dedication in pushing for this Health Care protection is of monumental importance to innumerable Americans, and enough can never be said to exemplify my personal satisfaction and gratefulness.

I further extend my appreciation to each member, individually, for bearing in mind, in spite of all the other most important affairs, the racial disparity of the crack versus powder cocaine epidemic. This recognition sends a message to the many families that have been torn apart by the draconian sentences imposed upon mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, friends, and families, that their struggles for equality in sentencing practices have not fallen on deaf ears. That our voices have been heard, and the corrective measures are being pursued.

In even further appreciation for your hard dedicated work regarding the disparity issue between the crack and powder cocaine, I recognize and appreciate the step taken, thus far, 18 to 1 ratio, towards bringing fairness into the sentencing laws that has at its back the race issue. However, even at a ratio of 18 to 1, the harsh reality remains. That is, of course, the scales of justice have yet to be balanced in order for this country to truly pride itself on the slogan, equal justice for all.

In conclusion, and once again, I commend each and everyone that was a partaker of the cause by whatever means, and I encourage you all, as I likewise pray, even for your endurance, that you will continue to strive and struggle to correct the long overhaul of injustices forced upon the minority. This can be accomplished not only by reducing the crack versus powder cocaine to 1 to 1, but also by causing the same to apply retroactively. That is the only way to insure equal justice for all.

Very truly yours,



United States Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle, NE  
Suite 2-500, South Lobby  
Washington, DC 20002-8002

Attn: **Honorable Ricardo H. Hinojosa, Chairman**  
**The Sentencing Commission**

Subject: **2010 Federal Crack Reform Bill in the House & Senate &  
Retroactive for all Crack Offenders, Including Career  
Offenders Under 4B1.1**

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Dear Chairman Hinojosa & Sentencing Commission:

I'm writing you in regards to the uproar involving a possible change in the Sentencing Guidelines (provided the recent Crack Bill becomes Law). I'm hoping you and the Commission will make the changes--that you have control of--**Retroactive**.

Also, I'm asking that you and the Commission remove or leave out any **Amendments** that would **exempt** people sentenced under 4B1.1. Even though 4B1.1 is for Career Offenders, it does not provide a justifiable reason for an unjust sentence given to those who have been prejudiced against by Sentencing Guidelines concerning Crack Cocaine versus Powdered Cocaine.

Thank you for your time concerning this matter of extreme importance.

Sincerely,

Name: Kisha Coffey  
Address: 10030 Landmark Ct  
Montgomery Al 36117  
Phone: 334 270-7913  
E-Mail: kisha.coffey  
Date: 06/09/10

August 5, 2010

U.S. Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle NE  
Washington, DC 20002-8002

**RE: Applying Retroactivity to S1789 "Fair Sentencing Act"**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to the Sentencing Commission to express my thoughts and support of the retroactivity of S1789 "Fair Sentencing Act". As we know, the bill has passed both the House and the Senate unanimously with bipartisan support. There are many families and/or inmates who have suffered for twenty-four years due to the injustice of the 100:1 disparity.

The 18:1 is a positive step in the right direction to fully ~~eliminating the crack/powder disparity. I am in full support of~~ the bill S1789 "Fair Sentencing Act" to be made retroactive.

Respectfully,

Rodney O. Clark #34505-183

The United States Sentencing Commission

The Honorable Ricardo Hinojosa  
The United States Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle, N.E., Ste. 2-500 South Lobby  
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002

RE: Emergency amendments to whichever proposed  
Crack Bill that becomes law.

Dear Chairman Hinojosa:

As a concerned tax paying citizen and member of Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), I urge the United States Sentencing Commission to make retroactive a 1 to 1 ratio to the crack sentencing guidelines if and when either of the new proposed Bills for crack cocaine becomes law.

Making the emergency amendments to the new law 1 to 1 and retroactive will ensure that thousands of individuals currently serving "unjustifiably harsh sentences" for crack have a chance to benefit from the law. "To give the benefit of the new law to some but not others, based on the date they were sentenced, is arbitrary, cruel, and unjustifiable!

It will also help repair the image of the sentencing guidelines in communities of color. The impression that our guidelines discriminate on the basis of race is rooted in the disparity in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine, which has resulted in longer sentences for African American defendants. In the past, "the Commission" made amendments affecting LSD, Marijuana, and Percocet retroactive. Each of these changes largely affected white offenders. By making the new crack amendments 1 to 1 and retroactive, should the new law pass, "the Commission" will send a powerful message that its pursuit of justice is color-blind!

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully and sincerely,

s/ Brandon Vaughn

40947-037

FROM:

Warren Young  
FORT DIX / CAMP  
P.O BOX 2000  
Fort Dix, NJ - 08640  
United States

DATE:

8-11-10

TO: Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Washington, DC. 20002-8002  
e-mail: pubaffairs@ussc.gov

RE: S. 1789 Authority To Amend Crack Guidelines Retroactively

Dear Chairman:

I am sending this letter to request that any "temporary emergency amendment" and "permanent amendment" of the crack guidelines (USSG § 2D1.1) include retroactivity because of the warrant of authority in S. 1789 that retroactivity must be provided "to achieve consistency with other guideline provisions and applicable law", specifically this sentencing commission's Amendment 706 and its retroactivity of the crack guidelines.

S. 1789 specifically state in pertinent part:

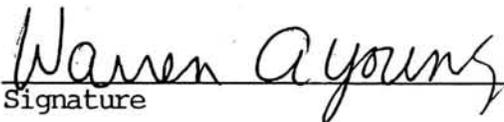
The United States Sentencing Commission shall--

(2) pursuant to the emergency authority provided under paragraph (1), make such conforming amendments to the Federal sentencing guidelines as the Commission determines necessary to achieve consistency with other guideline provisions and applicable law.

S. 1789, Sec. 8(2) (emphasis added). Accordingly, any amendment to the crack guidelines provided for within S. 1789, that was signed into "law" by President Obama, though its "emergency authority for the United States Sentencing Commission" to amend the crack guidelines according to its statutory changes must be made retroactive "to achieve consistency with other guideline provisions" as required by the "applicable law" S. 1789.

Therefore, I request that any amendment to the crack guidelines be made retroactive as warranted by the law.

Sincerely,

  
Signature