

August 13, 2010

United States Sentencing Commission

One Columbus Circle, NE,

Suite 2-500, South Lobby,

Washington, DC 20002-8002

Subject: Amendment cycle ending May 1, 2011

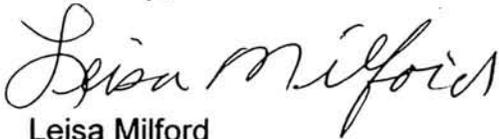
Public comment August 18, 2010 deadline

(11) Continued study of alternatives to incarceration, including possible consideration of any changes to the Guidelines Manual that might be appropriate in light of the information obtained from that study.

I applaud the commissions' initiatives on No. 11 of the subject amendment. Any actions that will restore the glory of the American justice system over the current Third World standard due to over criminalization and over sentencing are lauded.

Enclosed are comments that I believe the Commission should consider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leisa Milford".

Leisa Milford

1220 Coach House

Wichita, KS 67235

Enclosure

Why Congress should support HR 1475

The public assumes there is parole in the Federal system. Federal parole was a traditional and routine practice until tough on crime policies jettisoned good time incentives and replaced it with truth in sentencing. Truth in Sentencing's solution was to lock up law breakers and throw away the key. This was only a slogan and never an answer because only 2 % of the current 211,000 people in prison are serving lifetime sentences. Everyone else will come out, but in a much worse fashion than when they entered.

The old parole system wasn't always good; it had unfettered discretion. Now a new system of parole has many tools like risk assessment and evidence based practices for structured decision making. But instituting the Good Time Bill from this point forward isn't enough. What about the 211,000 men and women that are never going to get any kind of review? Ex Post Facto will not impact because unless you are being punitive, there isn't really a problem. There is a right way and a right time to release. Let's do what works!

Restoring Federal parole will ensure the health and safety of inmates and prison staff in prisons which are currently at 140% capacity.

HR 1475 will restore the practice of issuing good time to federal prisoners reducing the days of sentences in exchange for good behavior and rehabilitation programs.

The Good Time Bill meets the criteria for evidenced base best practices in the following ways:

1. **Effective management tool.** Busy people engaged in educational and vocational programs are much easier to manage and more compliant than people who are sitting idle all day long.
2. **Promote positive behavioral change.** Recent research from Rutgers speaks to the positive value of providing even very small incentives to achieve positive behavioral change. Early release is a great motivational factor.
3. **Less time is better.** Research consistently upholds the findings that shorter sentences achieve lower recidivism rates, while longer time hardens inmates to the ability to re-socialize and inculcates antisocial behavior. Quick sure and brief justice is proven to have the greatest effect. Good time enables inmates to shorten the time they serve. Good time is tried and true, traditional long standing concept, not a new and experimental idea.
4. **Cost effective.** Incarceration is extremely expensive. It is breaking the budgets of federal, state and local governments. Fewer days behind bars means fewer taxpayer dollars to prisons and jails and it releases more dollars to Community Correction programs.
5. **Supervision continues.** Adopting Good Time does not eliminate a person going into community supervision upon release. If Probation is part of the sentence it will be a part of the sentence and they won't be dumped in the streets. They are given the opportunity to come to halfway houses early.

(Excerpts from US Parole Commission, FedCure, and International Community Corrections Association (ICCA), statements presented at the 2010 Annual National Seminar on the Federal Sentencing Guidelines)

Attention: Public affairs-Prioritize #11 Public comment.

July 19, 2010(Volume 75,
Number1371)][Notice]{Page41927-41929}From the Federal
Register online via GPO[DOCID:fr 19jy10-138]

SUMMARY: As part of its statutory authority and responsibility
to
analyze sentencing issues, including operation of the Federal
sentencing guidelines, and in accordance with Rule 5.2 of its
Rules of
Practice and Procedure, the United States Sentencing
Commission is
seeking comment on possible priority policy issues for the
amendment
cycle ending May 1, 2011

Yes, I would like to see #11 moved much closer to
the top of the list.

This too should retroactively applied to previously sentenced
defendants would maintain a unanimous sentencing reform
rather than maintaining the "old /new law" practices currently
in place to can lesson some of the financial burden of the bop.
It's proven it's more economical to rehab then in prison, also
will help recidivism and reentry.

Sincerely,

Jul K Rubin
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