



July 7, 2014

The Honorable Patti B. Saris, Chair
United States Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Suite 2-500, South Lobby
Washington, DC 20002-8002

Re: Retroactivity of Amendment 782

Dear Chief Judge Saris:

In June the Commission took testimony from our organization along with other esteemed professionals and individuals concerning retroactivity of Amendment 782. We write today to briefly discuss “fairness,” a concept that received much attention during the hearing.

From our organization’s perspective, which represents tens of thousands of federal prisoners, their family members, and children, “fairness” means treating similarly situated individuals equally. Applying that definition to Amendment 782, the amendment should be designated for retroactive application without carveouts or restrictions.

To be sure, “fairness” can be defined differently. Colored by legalisms, what would seemingly be “fair” to the average citizen is no longer necessarily “fair” in the world of judges, academics, and lawyers. And therein lies the problem.

The Commission in its unique role within our system of government represents society’s values and conceptions of the law with regard to federal sentencing. In our opinion, society views the “fair” application of Amendment 782 through a lens of inclusivity, and not one of restrictions. Retroactivity of Amendment 782, as the attached collage and tens of thousands of letters the Commission has received to date reflect, affects real people and real lives. We strongly call on the Commission to vote in favor of full retroactivity of Amendment 782. It is the only right and fair thing to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Sample".

Brandon Sample
Executive Director



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**RETROACTIVITY
AFFECTS
REAL PEOPLE**

