

Written Statement
of
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United States Sentencing Commission
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Chairman Reeves, and members of the Commission, I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you. My name is Jeffery McReynolds, Chief Operating Officer of JSM Logistics. I'm testifying as a directly impacted recipient of retroactivity, not once, but two times in a five-year period; first for the crack-minus-two amendment and second for the drugs-minus-two amendment.

I come before you today as a proponent for retroactivity in the proposed Criminal History Amendment. Retroactivity may be the only possible relief for many men and women that are serving lengthy and unjust prison sentences due to their criminal history category.

I want you to know the man I am today. I'm the husband of a beautiful and amazing wife. I'm the proud father of four, beautiful, intelligent daughters, and an amazing son. In January 2020 I became the world's happiest grandfather to a beautiful little girl.

On October 20, 2005, I was sentenced to 235 months in the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. I remember it like yesterday. On November 14, 2005, I arrived at Greenville Federal Correctional Institution in Greenville Illinois. I remember walking into that prison and thinking to myself - I'm going to be a better person for my family once I'm released from this place. Being sentenced to two decades in prison, including for actions I'd already paid my debt to society for, was mind boggling. During my incarceration, my youngest sister Tiffany passed away from cancer; I never had a chance to say goodbye. Nine years later I still suffer with this daily.

I often think back to the numerous motions I filed pro se, and subsequently all the denials. Four years into my sentence, on February 3, 2009, I received my first two-point

reduction due to the crack-minus-two amendment that was later amended to include retroactivity. That amendment allowed me to give back 84 of the 235 months I was originally sentenced. After seven additional years of legal work, persistence, and patience, I finally reaped the harvest of my dedication. On December 2, 2014, I received a second two-point reduction as a result of the Drugs Minus Two and the retroactivity amendment – WHAT A BLESSING!

Because of retroactivity, I was given a second chance to LIVE! It allowed me to spend a year with my mom before she passed away. The retroactivity turned years of hope into a reality and the opportunity to give back to the community I once committed crimes against. In 2016, one year after my release, my wife and I started a logistics company. In this next chapter of our lives, our goal is to start a trucking school. In my spare time, I mentor returning citizens in small business start-ups so they too can be successful in their second chance. I am also an advocate for sentencing reform and recently participated in a Capitol Hill lobby day featuring 70 formerly incarcerated people and their loved ones. I had the opportunity to visit with Senator Durbin, Reps. Kelly, Budzinski, and Schneider's congressional offices to tell them my story.

Retroactivity permits people sentenced under guidelines that have been lowered the chance to make their case to the court that they deserve a reduced sentence. Because the Commission made crack and drug amendments retroactive, I was able to tell Judge Barbara Crabb that I was deserving of those changes too. She believed in me and in my rehabilitation. Without retroactivity and her faith in me, I would not be here today, I'd be in prison with a release date two years away.

No words can describe what it means to see the Commission not only lower sentences that were too long, but also do the right thing by making sure that people serving those sentences, like me, got a chance to prove they deserved the lower sentence. Those changes restored hope, and making the criminal history amendments will also give people hope and the opportunity to return home to their second chances.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Respectfully,

Jeffery J. McReynolds