

Michigan Lifers Association, Inc. and National Lifers of America, Inc.

MICHIGAN

Lifers Report

Newsletter

JULY 2023

CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMING IS NOT REHABILITATION

Willis X. Harris

We receive letters and phone calls from prisoners, state and federal, nationwide, wanting to know if there are any "lifer-specific" programs in any of our correctional facilities, and if so, what are the programs and how can they get some of them?

They believe academic, vocational, and therapeutic programming are essential to their rehabilitation. This is partially true.

Programming is a set of instructions, functions, or courses of action to adhere to/follow to achieve a specific goal or objective. Depending on your status as prisoners and nature of your convictions, PSI Reports, court recommendations, and results from correctional examinations/testing, you may be given different programs to help you gain insight into your behavior and suggestions on how to help you change your course of direction.

Rehabilitation is prisoner specific. You are in charge of your own brain and mindset. Depending on your acceptance, internalization, and practice of what you learned during your programming, the knowledge and insight you gained, it is your total responsibility to prove that you realistically benefited through a renewed mind, new social, moral, religious, and personal values.

To repeat, accepting, internalizing, and incorporating what you have learned during your re-programming into your changed mindset (not verbal change, but true mental/psychological change), will show if you are truly transformed/rehabilitated, or if you were only "faking and stiffing".

... (Cont. on p. 3)

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**MICHIGANS LIFERS REPORT
NEWSLETTER**

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(Limit articles to 600 words)

DO-OR-DIE

BECOMING A COLLEGE GRADUATE INSIDE PRISON

Bobby Bostic

When I was on the street corner selling drugs, I never imagined that I would one day go to college. In fact, I never thought I would live past the age of 18. A lot of my peers were getting killed. I felt like I had nothing to lose. At 16-years-old I was arrested for robbery. When I finally made it to 18-years-old, I was serving a 241-year sentence in prison. Sentenced to die in prison, I really felt like I had nothing to lose. It was do-or-die. Do-or-die takes on many different meanings in prison. These meanings can be literal or figurative. The literal meaning is that when you fight in prison it is either do-or-die. When you fight in here there are no kid gloves or referees. There are no rules in these fights. In a maximum security prison, your opponent is often serving a life sentence. Literally he has nothing to lose, so when you fight him he is trying to seriously hurt or kill you with his knife or other improvised weapon. In that type of fight, it is either "do-or-die".

There is another type of do-or-die fight in prison. When you have a life sentence with no chance of parole it's either you will do the time or lay down and die. When you lie down and die, you let the time do you. At 18-years-old I had to do-or-die. I couldn't possibly do 241 years in prison so my only other choice was to die in prison. Coming through the door I chose to do something about it. The very moment that the judge sentence me to die in prison I determined that I would live and get out one day some how, some way. I did not know how though. The judge's exact words to me were "Bobby Bostic, you will die in the department of corrections". For me it was do-or-die. The "do" I had no idea of how. I wanted to "do" something with my life.

Those first few years in prison I was lost in the prison madness getting high, fighting, hustling, and acting a fool. Despite that I did manage to get my G.E.D. within about a year of being in prison. Pell Grants were stopped by Congress in 1994. There was no free college in prison in Missouri. After the G.E.D., my academic education in prison basically ceased. Years later I started reading dozens of books. I educated myself informally in academics. I began to grow and mature. I studied every genre of academics from astronomy, agriculture, art, architecture, biology, botany, culture, history, law, politics, oceanography, and zoology.

I wrote over 100 colleges asking for a scholarship. I wrote civic organizations and churches trying to get funding for my ... (Cont. on p. 7)

(Correctional Programming, from p. 1) ...

SELF TEST

A word of caution: Don't think by involving yourselves in various programs with intent to fool or impress parole boards that you are a changed person, it will back-fire. Programming is not transforming.

Your parole board may ask you the following five (5) questions. How will you truthfully answer them?

(1) Mr. Culpepper, explain the circumstances surrounding your conviction or offense? What was your personal role? What did you do?

(2) We see that you have been involved in a series of programs. What have you learned that will impact a life-style change? What changes have you made in your mindset? Is crime still a part of your thinking? How have you kicked it?

(3) You were convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Aside from the programs you have completed, and the period of time you have served, why do you feel we should recommend to the governor that your mandatory life sentence should be commuted to make you eligible for parole consideration?

(4) If granted a parole, where and with whom will you live? What is your current educational level? Where will you work and what kind of work will you be doing?

(5) Can you complete a four-year parole without violating the conditions of your parole? How can we be sure that you are a changed person and will not recidivate and return to prison as a parole violator or with a new conviction, or both?

One more thing... Express your empathy and remorse for the record.

Review your answers!!!

FORGOTTEN WOMEN

Lee Horton

In recent years, throughout the Middle East and Africa, women have been sentenced to death by stoning - often for adultery. In every instance, a spontaneous eruption of empathy and support for these condemned women overflows from the hearts of American people and human rights advocates decrying treatment as excessive and inhumane.

I agree. Stoning a women for any reason is reprehensible. However, in evaluating the American public's outrage at the treatment of these women overseas, I am led to ask: Where is the outpouring of empathy and support for women incarcerated in the United States who are also confronted with harsh treatment? Frequently, these women suffer under the heavy yoke of wrongful convictions, problematic prison conditions, and inhumane prison sentences. Have they been forgotten?

Over the past 30 years, the fastest growing U.S. prison population has been women. In most states, the criminal justice system has been ill-equipped to handle such an increase in female prisoners. As a result, women imprisoned in the U.S. are subjected to overcrowding, violence, and sexual abuse from other prisoners and prison staff.

A point in fact: All over the U.S., incarcerated pregnant women are shackled during childbirth. Although this is no longer the case in Pennsylvania - thanks to former Governor Ed Rendell, who signed Act 45, which ended the practice in this state - incarcerated women in Pennsylvania face a far worse scenario. Some women sentenced as juveniles have been in prison for almost half a century with no relief in sight.

Sharon Wiggins was convicted of murder in the 1960s, at age 15. She remained on death row for three ... (Cont. on p. 7)

GROWING OLD BEHIND BARS Release Programs For Sick, Elderly Prisoners Could Save Millions, But States Rarely Use Them

Gina Barton
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA Today Network - Wisconsin

Across the country, early-release provisions for elderly and infirm prisoners are billed as a way to address problems such as prison overcrowding, skyrocketing budgets and civil rights lawsuits.

But throughout the USA, they are used so infrequently that they aren't having much impact.

That's because thousands of elderly prisoners nationwide - many of whom pose little or no risk of committing new crimes - aren't allowed to apply.

While these programs are presented as money savers, in 2015 a majority of states granted release to fewer than four applicants each. Within states that have compassionate-release programs and track the number, 3,000 people applied and only 216 were granted release.

For example, in Wisconsin, a program that allows elderly and severely ill prisoners to be released early from prison could save state taxpayers millions of dollars a year. But hundreds of the state's elderly prisoners - many of who prison officials acknowledge pose little or no risk of committing new crimes - aren't allowed to apply.

More than 1,200 people age 60 and older were serving time in Wisconsin prisons as of December 31, 2018, the most recent count available. By one estimate, the average cost to incarcerate each of them is \$70,000 a year - for an annual total of \$84 million. Last year, just six inmates were freed under the program.

Among those who didn't qualify were a blind quadriplegic and a 65-year-old breast cancer survivor who uses a breathing machine and needs a wheelchair to make it from her cell to the prison visiting room.

"We've taken health out of criminal justice policy to such a degree that the policies that have been developed do not have the geriatric and palliative care knowledge they need to make sense," said Brie Williams, a physician and professor of medicine at the University of California - San Francisco.

Of 47 states with processes to free such prisoners early or court rulings requiring them to do so, just three - Utah, Texas, and Louisiana - released more than a dozen people in 2015, according to a survey by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, part of the USA Today Network.

On its face, Wisconsin has one of the most comprehensive compassionate release laws in the country.

To qualify, a prisoner must be at least 65 with five years served, or 60 with 10 years served. Prisoners with chronic health conditions also may apply regardless of age or time served if two doctors certify the illnesses can't be properly treated in prison.

People convicted of some of the most serious felonies are not eligible.

From August 2, 2011, through the end of June 2017, people were released under the program, according to the corrections department. Only one was approved because of advanced age alone; the others had health conditions.

A key reason is this: The law governing compassionate release says only people whose crimes were committed on or after December 31, 1999, making them subject to truth-in-sentencing, are eligible. More than 25% of the state's ... (Cont. on p. 8)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM DISPUTE A COMMON GOAL OVERLOOKED

Dwight Henley

The recent Detroit News article "Criminal Justice Reforms Divisive" and other similar publications highlight the differences between supporters and opponents of Second Look Sentencing. What these articles fail to mention is the common goal of both sides: less crime in local communities. And releasing prisoners who reoffend the least achieves this goal.

Statistics show that from 2014-2018 Michigan prisoners return to prison at a rate of 26.5% and the parolees who reoffend commit on average 6-9 crimes before being apprehended. At the same time, in the name of retribution our State continues to imprison people who fall in recidivism cohorts of less than 5 percent.

By releasing prisoners from a 5% or less recidivism category instead of a 26.5% rate, we would drastically reduce crime and victimization in local communities. For example, a few years ago a change in the juvenile lifer law led to the release of about 150 juveniles who served at least 25 years, and only 2 of them returned to prison. Yet under our current parole structure, the next 150 people paroled will result in about 40 returning to prison after having committed more than 225 crimes.

Opponents of Second Look Sentencing say the bills pay too little attention to victims. But that depends on what victims we focus on. First, many crime victims feel that their perpetrator should be released after serving a substantial amount of time in prison and becoming rehabilitated. What about these victims; do their voices count? Second, releasing prisoners who reoffend at a much higher rate causes future victimization. Do these victims not count?

The question should not be about passing or scrapping Second Look Legislation. The real question should be, how do we craft this legislation to ensure we release only those prisoners who re-

offend the least (e.g., those over 50, those who served 20-plus years, juvenile lifers, etc.) The current Second Look bills may not ensure only the safest prisoners get released, but scrapping the bill guarantees unnecessary future crime in local communities.

Without some form of Second Look Sentencing, safe prisoners will remain in prison without recourse for release while more dangerous prisoners return to our local communities. We should not allow partisan politics to hurt everyone. It is time lawmakers scrap partisan narratives and focus on how we craft legislation that ensures we release the prisoners who reoffend the least. Our citizens deserve this and public safety requires it.

NEW RESEARCH EXAMINES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND MENTAL ILLNESS

Genevra Gallo-Bay

Solitary confinement has long been an area of controversy within the context of criminal justice and corrections. Those against the practice have questioned whether it is ethical due to the potential psychological impact it can have on incarcerated individuals. For incarcerated persons with mental illness (IPMI), this impact can be ever greater; particularly if IPMI are more likely to receive solitary confinement. This article summarizes a recent study, originally published in Justice Quarterly, conducted by researchers at Florida State University that examined the relationship between solitary confinement and mental illness to determine if IPMI have an increased likelihood of being sent to solitary confinement.

Mental Illness And Justice System Involvement

Past research has confirmed that individuals with mental illness are over-represented among incarcerated individuals. There are two primary hypotheses for why this may be: ... (Cont. on p. 6)

1.) **Criminalization:** Due to deinstitutionalization efforts, people with mental illness have become more apt to be "supervised" by the criminal justice system than the mental healthcare system.

2.) **Criminal Risk:** Individuals with a mental illness possess higher levels of criminal risk factors making them more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system.

According to the study's authors, "There's evidence for both hypotheses." However, they noted that individuals with mental illness are often supervised differently within the criminal justice system--specifically that they are apt to be dealt with "more punitively" than incarcerated individuals without mental illness. In addition, they stated "mental illness is only a weak predictor of offending behavior when other risk factors are controlled."

Use of Solitary Confinement

Solitary confinement, wherein an incarcerated person is isolated in a cell from 22-24 hours per day, has been studied extensively to determine whether it causes mental health issues. The authors of the study noted that prior research has shown "solitary confinement has not been found to reliably cause mental illness."

Yet, research also has shown that of those placed in solitary confinement, 25% to 50% have existing mental health issues, which can range from "psychological stress to diagnosable mental illness."

Prior researchers have tried to determine why IPMI are placed in solitary confinement at higher rates. Primary explanations include:

- IPMI are more likely to be written up for misconduct, and their official record may lead to greater likelihood of "disciplinary segregation: being used;

- IPMI may be more likely to be victimized by others, leading to solitary confinement being used "for protective purposes";

- Possessing more risk-factors for behavioral problems means a greater likelihood of being in trouble while incarcerated and therefore placed in solitary confinement.

Yet the prior studies upon which these explanations are based have yielded mixed results and often lacked a systematic or methodological approach. Small sample sizes, facility variability, weak design, and the absence of mediators have limited the ability of scholars to draw conclusive predictions with regard to the relationship between solitary confinement and mental illness.

The study used an analytical sample size of 155,018 male incarcerated individuals, all of whom entered facilities on or following July 1, 2007, and were released by December 31, 2015. All of the correctional facilities were located in a large state in the southern region of the United States.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Michigan Lifers Report Newsletter was given permission by the International Association of Correctional and Forensic Psychology (IACFP) to reprint this article.

WORKABLE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

Willis X. Harris

Perhaps our judges and criminal courts are unaware of any alternatives to incarceration. There are many solutions to criminal conduct if observed and remedied at the onset.

During the 1980s and 90s, the Federal Probation Department, the Wayne County Probation Department, Recorder's Court of Detroit, and the 36th District Court were sentencing low risk, nonviolent offenders to both probation and community service. During community service, probationers worked on many nonprofit projects such as public libraries, churches, Volunteers of America, Salvation Army, Focus-Hope, YMCA, YWCA, and maintaining public parks and recreational areas.

These nonprofits saved thousands of dollars and were able to employ some probationers, many of whom never had a job. Being employed and earning wages changed some probationers. For the first time in their lives, they had ... (Cont. on p. 10)

(Do-Or-Die, from p. 2) ... college education. I only received rejection letters. No one would help me. More years went by with hundreds more rejection letters. I was starving for a formal academic education. Finally, I saved enough money to afford a Paralegal Diploma from Blackstone Career Institute in 2010. That sparked a drive in me. A year later I took my first college correspondence course from Adams State University. I took a course on Victim Advocacy. This opened my mind to what victims of crime experience. In 2012 via a private fundraising effort, Missouri State University - West Plains offered 12 inmates a Basic Business Studies Certificate consisting of 4 college courses. Once I started college I knew I wouldn't stop until after I got at least two college degrees.

I had no funds to pay for college; nor did my family. I had no resources or connections. What I did have was determination. With that drive I kept writing any- and everyone seeking help to fund my college education. At one point the prison administration locked me up in solitary confinement for unauthorized use of the mail for trying to raise funds for college. Undeterred, I kept writing people. It was not until 2016 when I wrote a total stranger named Linda Parkinson that I found someone to fund my college education. She agreed to pay for the entire two degrees if I kept my grade point average up. I was able to transfer my prior college classes toward my first degree. After funding half of my degree Linda stopped sponsoring me after I failed one class and got two D's in the other classes.

This left me back at square one. I only had 7 classes left to complete my degree. I started writing people again seeking sponsorship. In about six months I found a college professor who agreed to fund the rest of my degree. My family and friends pitched in and helped in ways that they could also. I passed my final classes with ease. However, I hit a roadblock with college algebra. I had not done this kind of math in 20 years. In 2018, I failed college algebra. Then in 2019 I failed

Finite Mathematics. I had no tutor. There was no one in prison to teach me. Without passing math I could not get my degree. It was do-or-die time. I studied math day and night in my cell. With constant noise and prison madness around me I remained focused. Eventually I passed my math class with a "C". I finally graduated college with my Associates degree from Adams State University. I am the first person in my immediate family to graduate from college. Now I am currently enrolled to take my Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. I have only 10 classes left to complete this degree. That 16-year-old boy could never see far enough to the man I am today. He was thinking in terms of "do-or-die" as getting money on the streets or stave barely getting by. Now the man I am today is thinking in terms of educating myself so I can get out of prison. Education is the ladder to my freedom. This is my story of "Do-or-Die: Becoming a College Graduate Inside Prison".

(Forgotten Women, from p. 3) ... years before she was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Now, in her 60s, Sharon has the distinction of being the longest confined female juvenile lifer in the world. Is this humane? Most countries would say "No".

What about Geraldine Lucas who has been in prison over 40 years? She is now 79-years-old and blind. Nothing more needs to be said about her situation. The inhumanity of continuing to incarcerate a blind septuagenarian after 40 years speaks for itself.

Sharon and Geraldine are not the exception in Pennsylvania, but rather the rule. At SCI-Muncy, many other women are serving life without parole, just like them. They are sick, infirm, and surely no threat to society. Most have been long reformed. So why are they still in prison? What is being gained?

The American public is right in their outrage against the sentence of death by stoning women overseas endure. However, countries that issue punishment that offends American ... (Cont. on p. 8)

(Forgotten Women, from p. 7) ... sensibilities would find sentencing a 15-year-old girl to life without parole, and then keeping her in prison for half a century, to be equally inhumane. For, like those women abroad, after living so long in a cell no bigger than a bathroom, every day is equivalent to being stoned one day at a time.

Before citizens of the U.S. can be outraged at other countries for inhumanity towards their citizens, we must first be sure our own citizens are being treated humanely.

Nobody is talking about releasing people who are convicted of crimes without punishing them. But after half-a-century in prison, being stoned may be preferable to continued imprisonment. America's outrage should be at the treatment of its own incarcerated women and their plight. And Pennsylvania can start by considering parole eligibility for the forgotten women of Muncy. It's high time to pass legislation to parole Pennsylvania's lifers.

EDITOR'S NOTE: While this article addresses Pennsylvania's women serving life, I must point out that Michigan is just as bad keeping women incarcerated for decades. According to The Sentencing Project, Michigan ranks fourth in the nation with 170-plus women serving life without the possibility of parole sentences. Michigan only has a prison population of about 32,000 and only one women's facility.

(Growing Old Behind Bars, from p. 4) ... elderly prisoners serving long sentences - as well as some younger people with serious health problems - were locked up before that.

That means some of the oldest and sickest prisoners can't apply.

A Quadriplegic Behind Bars

As a result, people such as Paul Echols stay in prison. Echols was rendered a quadriplegic and left legally blind after a gun battle with police in 1994. One of his bullets shattered an officer's arm, ending his career.

Echols' first court appearance occur-

red in his hospital room. By then, about five months after the crime, his medical care had already cost the state \$200,000.

He was convicted of three felonies and sentenced to 37 years in prison.

Echols could not raise his arms and spent his days flat on his back listening to audio books, said his father, Paul Gordon. If his headphones slipped, Echols couldn't adjust them on his own.

Echols was denied parole six times. Every time, the Board concluded that his release "would involve an unreasonable risk to the public," according to Parole Commission records. He died in prison last year.

Few Receive Parole

In theory, parole is the mechanism for people such as Echols to get out of prison before the end of their sentences.

In practice, the number of Wisconsin inmates released on parole has decreased dramatically in recent years.

Corrections officials explain the trend by saying most people now in prison are subject to truth-in-sentencing. As a result, only about 15% of prisoners are eligible for parole.

In 2016, the most recent year available, just 185 people were approved for parole. Of those, 12 were 60 or older.

The Parole Board is not required to consider factors such as advanced age, lack of mobility or illness. Instead, commissioners must conclude that someone has served "sufficient time for punishment" and that setting his or her free would not pose an unreasonable "risk to the public," among other things.

Parole Board Chair Daniel Gabler declined to be interviewed about how commissioners weigh those factors.

In general, parole board tend to focus on the crime and often do not have adequate information about an inmate's medical condition, said Rebecca Sibling, formerly a program manager at the nonprofit Vera Institute for Justice.

"A parole board may get a disciplinary record that doesn't have any context with respect to the per- ... (Cont. on p. 9)

(Growing Old Behind Bars, from p. 8) ... son's medical condition and to what extent the diagnosis may be affecting their behavior," Sibling said.

A Drug Offense

Contrary to a Gabler assertion during his confirmation hearing that prisoners still serving time under the parole system are "killers and rapists," a spot-check on parole-eligible inmates ages 60 and older found convictions for a variety of crimes, including drug dealing and robbery. One of them is Nancy Ezell.

In 1998, Ezell pleaded guilty to eight felonies for repeatedly selling cocaine to police informants and undercover officers, as well as trying to buy purportedly stolen goods from one of them. None of the charges included violent behavior. Her record also did not include violent crimes.

At the time, the "war on drugs" was in full swing, resulting in long prison sentences for even non-violent drug offenders.

Ezell, then 47, was sentenced to 65 years under the parole system, in which inmates become eligible for release after serving a quarter of their sentences.

Ezell, who turns 66 this month, uses a wheelchair and a breathing machine. She takes about 30 pills a day to control more than a dozen health conditions, according to her medical records. Two years ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She became eligible for parole in 2014. She has not been disruptive and has completed every program recommended, according to parole commission records.

Yet she has been denied release repeatedly. The reason? She has not served enough time for punishment, in the Parole Board's view. And they believe her release would pose an unreasonable risk to the public.

Little Risk Of Offending Again

Elderly inmates are substantially less likely than younger ones to break the law again upon release, according to numerous studies.

One of them, by the U.S. Sentencing Commission, found that just 6.8% of men age

60 and older return to prison within eight years, compared with 40% for men under 30.

"Some patients who are dying are dangerous. These laws are not designed for those individuals," Williams said of the sick and elderly incarcerated. "But the vast majority," she said, "are not."

On the flip side, life in prison poses unique safety hazards for aging prisoners, according to Williams, Director of the Criminal Justice and Health Program at the University of California - San Francisco.

Age-related conditions such as incontinence that would be embarrassing and inconvenient on the outside could become unsafe for someone locked down with a cellmate, she said. Prisoners with dementia may wander into the wrong cell, or they may break the rules because they don't know any better.

It is often difficult or impossible for prison medical staff to fulfill the constitutional requirement of providing the same standard of care as in the community, Williams said. As a result, inmates must leave prison for medical care at clinics or hospitals. The cost of that care has increased over time.

While the National Institute of Corrections estimates the amount is doubled for prisoners age 50 and older, other studies have concluded the cost is between three and nine times as much. And it mounts with age.

It's up to society as a whole to decide whether keeping sick and elderly prisoners locked up is worthy the cost, Williams said.

It's a very expensive resource, and we have to decide who it should be used for," she said. "Do we want to use this resource for someone who is so demented they don't know their name? For someone who can barely breathe and is dragging around an oxygen tank? It's a question we have to ask ourselves."

CONTRIBUTING: Kevin Crowe, Journal Sentinel, and Dave Boucher, USA Today Network.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Michigan also has a compassionate release statute that is rarely, if never, used, just like Wisconsin and the many other states. There has been countless terminally-ill prisoners denied release.

(Workable Alternatives, from p. 6) ... earned money and had no desire to steal and rob people. With money in their pockets, they were happy, showed up daily for work, and remained crime free.

For others, while volunteering on various work projects, they learned job skills that they could use and become gainfully employed.

To augment probation and volunteer work projects, courts sent probationers to mentoring programs where probationers were matched with mentors who, at their own volition and expense took the probationers to theaters, plays, concerts, restaurants, ball games, swimming, dances, roller and ice skating, and other public entertainment the probationers had never been. This type of exposure encouraged them to aspire for better things in life and avoid criminal thinking.

Finally, some returned to school and graduated and a few became boxers, basketball players, and singers.

There are limitless alternatives to locking up people. Prison is for people who need to be locked up. Incarceration is not for everyone who offends.

Our courts should consider some of these sanctions and use them to help save tax dollars and strive to rehabilitate instead of incarcerate.

MICHIGAN LIFERS ASSOCIATION, INC. Legislative Proposals for 2023-2024

We Propose:

1. Change Section 750.316 (First-Degree Murder) from life imprisonment to a maximum term of 10 years unless it can be shown with evidence that the release of such person poses a continued risk of threat to public safety.

2. Michigan Criminal Law, Section 750.316 violates the mandate of Michigan Constitution of 1962, Article 4, Section 46, which prohibits the State Legislature from enacting any law that carries a death penalty. Section 750.316 carries a penalty of death-by-incarceration.

3. Change MCL Section 750.316 (Second Degree Murder) from life imprisonment to a term of 15 years unless

it can be proven with evidence that the release of such person poses a continued risk or threat to public safety.

4. Restore Good Time to prisoners which can shorten the sentence with good behavior and revoke same with bad behavior.

5. Mandate rehabilitation by state law. The State Legislature should appropriate the necessary funding for the MDOC to implement and facilitate necessary psychological, psychiatric, academic, vocational, medical, and other necessary interventions as needed to effectuate the above listed objections using board-certified and other verified professionals.

6. Take the State Parole Board from correctional and gubernatorial control and place it back under Civil Service status as well as the State Corrections Commission. The Corrections Commission should be invested with legislative authority to interview, hire all correctional employees, promote, demote, and terminate parole board members for cause.

7. Prisoners denied parole, and lifers denied a right to commutation consideration, should be given information supporting negative decisions and how to help reverse such decisions.

8. Reverse the five-year interview policy back to the two-year policy. The current five-year interview policy only prolongs periods of incarceration.

The Michigan Lifers Association, Inc. is willing to amend, discuss, or enlarge specific proposals. We are asking our legislators to seriously consider each of our proposals and meet with us at our Detroit location.

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Copies sent to:
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House Judiciary Committee
House Corrections Committee
House Fiscal Committee
Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Corrections Committee
Senate Law and Justice Committee
Senate Majority Leader
Speaker of the House of Representatives

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

The expressed purposes of the Michigan Lifers Association, Inc. and the National Lifers of America, Inc. to publish the "Michigan Lifers Report Newsletter" are to educate and uplift the lifer population, to seek changes in laws that restrict clemency and parole, to educate the general public, and to encourage criminal justice reform, especially in corrections.

PRISONERS

PRISONER'S FULL NAME: _____ Number: _____

NAME OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITY: _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ Zip Code: _____

CIVILIANS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ APT. _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ Zip Code: _____

PHONE NO. () _____

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