

IOWA CITIZENS UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

An Effort to Reduce Crime Through Criminal Justice Reform Spr

Spring 2008

EXPANDING IOWA'S PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

When two prisoners escaped from the Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison in November of 2005, never in their wildest dreams could they have imagined that their misadventure would trigger plans by 2 of Iowa's Governors and the Iowa Department of Corrections' administration and Board to spend \$269 million to expand and upgrade Iowa's prison system.

Following the escape a security audit of ISP was conducted by the National Institute of Corrections to identity what should be done to tighten security at the prison. In addition, the state hired the Durrant Group, an architectural criminal justice design firm to do a systematic study of the prison system in Iowa and to make recommendations. Their report is divided into 3 basic areas: Classifications, Treatment/Programs, and Facilities.

Classification: The study shows that the classification system is extremely out of date and has probably led to many people being over classified. During the budget crisis in the early 2000's evaluation for substance abuse was eliminated. Classification needs to be gender based. It cannot really be determined how many people we have in maximum, medium, and minimum levels until we have a new classification in place and functioning.

Programs: It has been found that some programs were either not helping participants, or were actually making them worse, (The Rivers Program and TOW programs are two examples.) These programs must be eliminated or totally redone. At any one time there are between 400 to 600 people who are approved for release to work release or other community based corrections (CBCs), but there is no space for them in the current facilities. There is a great need for more re-entry programming to provide transition from prison to community. There is a great need for treatment for the mentally ill in prison and in the community. When these programs are in place then we should have a realistic idea of what is needed in the way of prison beds.

Facilities: The prison at Fort Madison is extremely old and outdated. It needs to be replaced. A new prison could be built on a different site or within the old site; the CCU and the John Bennett Center. There are several buildings at ICIW at Mitchellville that need to be replaced. The 100 women on the special care unit at Mt. Pleasant should be brought back to ICIW and there must be a mental health unit at ICIW because of the high percentage of mentally ill women in the population. It is also recommended that the classification of women be at ICIW. The recommendation also suggests the addition of beds at the Newton Correctional Facility.

The Board of Corrections, the Governor, and the Department of Corrections are recommending that we move ahead on the construction piece of the recommendations first. The members of the Justice Reform Consortium, the "Des Moines Register" and according to a recent poll, many lowans, believe that this is putting the cart before the horse. We need to get the new Classification system and the new programs in place and working. Then we can get a realistic look at what we really have regarding maximum, medium, and minimum security prisoners. If new programs reduce recidivism then we will not need to add any new beds to the system. Also, since there is always an average of 400 people waiting for beds in the CBCs why is the recommendation to add less than 300? Why not put our money there and move people out of prison more quickly?

The proposal does not address the current structural needs at Anamosa State Penitentiary which houses as many maximum security prisoners in far more overcrowded conditions than Fort Madison. They have fewer staff and have not been receiving adequate funds for structural repairs for years.

According to Rev. Carlos Jayne, Legislative Advocate for the Justice Reform Consortium, "The Justice Reform Consortium has followed closely the deliberations and recommendations of the Durrant Group. We feel their analysis to be very well done and the recommendations they make very credible.

We appreciate the need to replace antiquated or outmoded structures which are inefficient to operate and less effective in providing space for treatment and programming for offenders to assure adequate rehabilitation. This is especially so at the women's prison at Mitchellville and also at the Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison. However, when it comes to the

specific recommendations for building and rebuilding of facilities it seems that the legislature would be premature to include in any prison institutional construction or reconstruction any provision for added bed capacity when we assume the recommendations regarding new classification systems, improved mental health and substance abuse treatment programming and increased community based corrections capacity will greatly relieve the overcrowding now experienced in the institutional side of the system.

The "Des Moines Register" has it correct, three alternatives, sufficiently resourced, will reverse the tide of movement of people toward prison: 1. reduce prison sentences; 2. Assure convicts a successful transition upon release; 3. Divert more offenders from prison. "

What is the long term goal regarding corrections? Do we want to reduce the number of victims of crime through crime prevention which includes investing in programs that rehabilitate prisoners, treats the mentally ill, and creates a safer society or do we want to simply punish those who have commitment crimes thus making it necessary to grow lowa's prison industrial complex.

UPDATE ON THE INMATE PHONE SYSTEM

Several states report real progress regarding their inmate phone systems. Unfortunately, Iowa is not one of them. According to Kay Perry, President of International CURE the following positive changes have occurred:

First, there are a few states that have eliminated the commissions (kickbacks) that phone companies traditionally pay prison systems. The result is reduced rates for prison calls. The states that have done so are: Nebraska, New York, Missouri, RI, Oklahoma, and California. Michigan will join that group in July of 2008.

Approximately 20 states offer debit calling. That is important for at least three reasons. 1)The calls are cheaper, because they are paid in advance with no possibility of bad debt.{Note: Iowa is an exception as the cost of phone calls went UP when we switched from collect calls to pre-paid calls. 2) It is a way to avoid the call blocking that occurs when the prison phone company has no billing agreement with the call recipient's local carrier. 3) Since the debit account is paid by the prisoner, it potentially gives the prisoner more responsibility in managing the situation.

Federal legislation (H.R. 555) has been introduced to require the Federal Communications Commission to consider a variety of remedies to correct problems with the interstate prison phone calls and to reconfirm the FCC's power to do so.

Michigan now allows calls through Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). We know of no other states that do so, though some may. This is considerably cheaper, because the recipient can request a phone number that is local to the prison. Some prisons also allow remote call forwarding with traditional land lines. Others prevent that. The technology allows an individual to request a phone number that is local to a prison which will automatically transfer to the individual's home address. It accomplishes what VOIP does. Some prisons allow calls to cell phones; others do not. Since cell phones are becoming so prevalent, we think it is important to include such calls.

We asked Ms. Perry to compare lowa's phone charges to that of other states and she felt that we were about in the middle range. The information on the website regarding the lowa Offender phone system is based on a 20 minute phone call, but it is our understanding that calls are limited to 15 minutes and by the time the actual hook up takes place a person is likely to get 13 minutes.

The IDOC Offender Telephone Accounts are now handled by Fort Madison. This move from Oakdale to Fort Madison means that the cost is increased by 2% because County tax in Johnson County is 6% and the Lee County tax is 8%. It does not seem fair that prisoners all over Iowa must pay Lee county local option tax simply because this is the collection point.

Last year Director of Corrections John Baldwin introduced the possibility that Iowa might begin a pilot project in several Iowa Prisons which would make it possible for prisoners to send and receive e-mail messages from a select number of persons. There would be a modest charge. Not only would this improve communication at a reduced rate, it would also give prisoners very basic computer skills which are required for almost any employment. The Director reports that this project has become buried on his desk and he hasn't been able to move forward on it.

In many states where there have been changes, it only took one policymaker (often a legislator) to make a difference. Can we find a legislator in Iowa who would make a commitment to work on this? When Johnie Hammond was in the Iowa Senate she introduced legislation to make the inmate phone system revenue neutral; after she retired no one took up this cause. Let's try to find someone who will help us.

Leaders in the Movement for Prisoners' Rights

Prisoners across the nation have a new supporter in their struggle for easement of the tough laws restricting inmates ability to file law suits. It is reported that David Keene, Chr. of the National Conservative Union has joined the call for a revision of the Prison Litigation Reform Act which was passed by Congress in 1996 as a way of curbing frivolous lawsuits. He learned through personal experience just

how extreme the law was when his own son, who is serving time in federal prison, was stymied in his effort to lodge complaints which Mr. Keene felt were legitimate.

Dr. David Faith, Director of U.S. Human Rights Watch states, "It's important to recognize what an extraordinary piece of legislation this is. It takes an unpopular, politically powerless group and makes it more difficult for them and only them to protect their constitutional rights."

Even in the case of rape, you are shut out of court if you don't get a grievance filed within a few days. Most prisons use a complicated grievance process that is very difficult to navigate. "Failure to Exhaust the Grievance Process" is probably the most common reason that prisoners are successful in court.

Here in lowa prisons had up-to-date law libraries, but after the 1996 legislation came down, then Director of Corrections, Kip Kautzky discontinued the updating of the libraries and put into place a new system providing legal assistance to offenders via contract attorney service. In June of 1999, then Warden Graves received a letter from staff at the University of Iowa, College of Law offering, not only to donate to ISP superseded legal reference materials, but also to transport these documents free of charge to ISP. Warden Graves accepted this generous offer. Several months later Michael Savala, then Assistant Director of the DOC, sent a letter to the College of Law saying that they did not need the materials, that the information they were receiving was that the prisoners were quite happy with the new system of using lawyers under contract with the State Public Defender to provide legal services.

The feedback that Iowa CURE receives from Iowa's prison population does not support this opinion. We are told that the contract lawyers are very limited in the information they provide and in the time that they are available. We hear that space in the legal recourse centers and the time they can spend there is limited, supplies such as typewriters are limited and in poor repair.

At a recent meeting of the Judiciary Committee Director Baldwin reported that the number of current lawsuits against the DOC is less than 300 and he attributes that to the fact that the law libraries were taken out of the prisons and replaced with the contract lawyers.

In a related issue a bill (House Study Bill 506) has been introduced in the House which would enable prisoners' in Iowa's jails and prisons to file civil rights complaints with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. The Office of the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman office is behind the bill. They receive 5000 complaints a year with about 25% being from prisoners. They can look into complaints and make recommendations, but have no power of enforcement or to make changes. The Iowa Attorney General's Office issued an opinion about 25 years ago that civil rights protection processes do not apply to people behind bars.

According to the Des Moines Register Attorney Roxanne Conlin has sued the state in the past year for refusing to accept prisoner complaints. She noted that other states have already determined that inmates are protected by their civil rights laws.

Travesties of Justice Going Forward

As we see it these are several major TRAVESTIES OF JUSTICE GOING FORWARD or already in place at this time in Iowa's criminal justice/corrections policy area and include:

-Plans moved forward by DOC Board and joint legislative committee to add beds instead of just correcting structural problems, enhancing treatment programs and updating and improving custody classification which would lead to reduction in the prison population.

-Joint committee working on Criminal code "re-arranging" without (so far) definitive efforts for reforming sentencing practices which would help to preclude the need for any additional capacity of prisons.

-Legislative refusal to alter the sex-offender residency restriction law.

-Continuing to use prisons as repositories for the mentally ill while admitting mental health system and funding is extremely flawed in Iowa including continued reduction of beds for the severely mentally ill.

-Overrepresentation of blacks in prison.

-44 persons convicted as Children who are in prison sentenced to life without parole.

-Inadequacies of programming, education and treatment which, if adequate, would allow for more effective recidivism rates and reduction of prison population.

Reentry: Communities and Corrections United - In 2007 5,850 offenders were released from Iowa

prisons! Of the 5,850: 1,389 were paroled, 1,281 were on work release and 1,273 discharged having served their sentences (this group goes directly to the streets).

The Governor and the DOC are presenting several new programs in an attempt to address the problem of the overrepresentation of African-Americans in the prison system and the current lack of continuity between prisons and reentry. The primary focus will be on offenders released from ICIW and Fort Dodge therapeutic Communities to Black Hawk and Polk Counties. This is because of the high percentage of offenders who are paroled, who are released to those countries and the high percentage who are African-American. According to materials prepared by the IDOC, One-Stop Community-based Reentry and Treatment Resource Centers are an innovative approach for engaging offenders, families, and neighborhoods in successful offender reintegration, as well as strengthening families and the fabric of communities. This disproportionate incarceration rate of African-Americans is addressed by locating community-based resources in high crime African-American communities, increased hiring of African-American staff, and effective collaboration with the African-American community and faith-based organizations.

Primary substance abuse and mental health needs of offenders would be addressed through improved access to communitybased resources. The DOC has received a grant to set up reentry programs in 2 rural areas and these programs will be used for programs in rural areas of the 2nd and 5th judicial districts. Spectrum Resources may be given the contract to run these programs.

Caucus Resolution on Treatment of Mentally III in our Communities and in our Criminal Justice System - MENTAL ILLNESS IS NOT A CRIME

Caucus Resolution on Treatment of Mentally III in our Communities and in our Criminal Justice System--January 3, 2008

WHEREAS, mental illness is not a crime, although some of the mentally ill do commit crimes when they are not able to access proper treatment, due to its not being affordable, available or provided under health insurance coverage.

NOW, THEREFORE, we demand that the state of Iowa mandate treatment rather than prison for those people who commit crimes attributable to their being addicted to drugs/alcohol or being severely mentally ill or both.

FURTHER, we demand that the legislature provide for and appropriate funds for more drug courts and mental health courts or similar programs for diverting such offenders from prison.

FURTHER, we demand adequate funding for community based substance and mental health treatment so accessibility to lowans is immediately available to them.

FURTHER, we demand the state provide for re-entry programs that connect mentally ill offenders with treatment and resources in order to begin appropriate medications before they leave prison and continuing after they leave prison. FURTHER, we demand that the state provide adequate funding for the proper staffing and treatment of the mentally ill now in prison who will not be able to take advantage of any diversionary programs established by future laws.

FURTHER, we demand that the state provide for sufficient in-patient beds for the very seriously mentally ill rather than funding more prison beds.

THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

The House overwhelmingly passed HR 1593, the Second Chance Act, on November 13. Introduced by Rep. Danny Davis (D.IL.) and 93 co-sponsors, it would fund states and localities to help former prisoners re-enter society and avoid recidivism. Included would be funding for drug and mental health treatment, job training, and education and housing. S 1060, introduced by Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE), is awaiting action in the Judiciary Committee.

Source: Washington Report to Presbyterians

Note: There are 34 co-sponsors of the bill in the Senate. Senator Harkin is a co-sponsor, but Senator Grassley is not. Iowa CURE members and other concerned Iowans should give him a call and urge his to support the bill.

GOOD NEWS-BAD NEWS

The good news is that the Board of Corrections has approved a proposal to hire a new staff person to work with Betty Brown as she helps offenders deal with the trauma and abuse they have experienced in their own lives. According to Fred Scaletta, 80 to 85% of those in prison have been victims of abuse and need services to address this trauma as well as to address the impact of the abuse they have caused the victims of their crimes. This new position is a Corrections Counselor II position.

The bad news is that this position will be funded with profits from the inmate phone system. Board members asked why it would not be funded with funds from the general fund and were told it was due to the fact that they are being asked to submit a status quo budget. Director Baldwin stated that they have tried to move the education funding provided by profits from the inmate phone system to the general fund, but this was turned down.

ADVOCATES FOR WOMEN IN PRISON

Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners is a citizens advocates' group working to bring together individuals and groups concerned about women in the Iowa correctional system and to act on their behalf. The group meets from noon to 1 p.m. on the third Tues. of each month at Wesley United Methodist Church 800 East 12th in Des Moines. There is a speaker at each meeting and a representative from Iowa Women's Correctional Facility is present to answer questions. We advocate for better mental health treatment, more education, and re-entry programs, and more programs that promote family connections. Please join us for this important work. For more information contact: Katie Nosekabel at Employee and Family Resources, 514-471-232, knosekabel@efr.org.

CHILD RECOVERY VIDEO BEING PREPARED TO HELP PRISONERS

The Department of Human Services and Child Support Recovery are preparing a DVD with funding from the Casey Foundation which will explain to prisoners how they can get a review and possible reduction in their Child Support Payments. Large child support payments are often a tremendous burden to people coming out of prison and trying to get reestablished. It is possible to get these payments reduced and this DVD will explain the process.

RULING REGARDING GOOD TIME FOR SEX OFFENDERS

A court ruling has come down that the state cannot take away inmates good time for not participating in the Sex Offender Treatment Program if they were sentenced before 2001.

IOWA COALITION TO OPPOSE LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE FOR CHILDREN

Following the forum on children serving life without parole in Iowa's prisoners sponsored by Iowa CURE and the Des Moines Chapter of Amnesty International the Iowa Coalition to Oppose Life Without Parole was formed. The group was granted 501(c)3 status, a board was elected, and many justice groups have become members. The first newsletter was recently published. Christy Lockheart and Natasha Newcomb deserve a big thank you for the doing such a great job. This has been distributed to all State Legislators.

Cynthia Foder recently did a two part segment on children serving life without parole which featured Christy Lockheart and Kristina Fetters. Sarah Errington, a British filmmaker came to lowa late last year to explore the possibility of doing a 90 minute documentary on this issue. Burt Smith, Derek Smith, Jayson Speaks, Christine Lockheart, and Kristina Fedders have agreed to be interviewed. Errington is interested in this topic because the U.S. is now the only country in the world that sentences children under the age of 18 to life without parole.

A strategic planning committee has been formed and will identify steps that we need to take to move ahead on getting our legislation before lowa legislators.

Suzette Ivey attended the National Juvenile Justice Conference in New York City as a representative of the Coalition. She brought back a wealth of information on funding and organizing resources and strategies. For more information go to the website www.ia4juvenilejustice.org.

THE WAY WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE IT!

Lakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However, in corrections, and in other affairs, we often try other strategies, including the following:

- 1) Buy a stronger whip.
- 2) Change riders.
- 3) Say things like "This is the way we always have ridden this horse."
- 4) Appoint a committee to study the horse.
- 5) Arrange to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.
- 6) Create a training session to increase our riding ability.
- 7) Harness several dead horses together for increased speed.
- 8) Declare that "No horse is too dead to beat."
- 9) Provide additional funding to increase the horse's performance.
- 10) Declare the horse is "better, faster and cheaper dead".
- 11) Study alternative uses for dead horses.
- 12) Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.

DOC STAFF CHANGES

There have been a number of changes in DOC staff in recent months. Robert Garrison has been appointed State Director of Security. This is a new position. Brian Hier has been appointed Deputy for Administration filling the position which was vacated when John Baldwin became Director of Corrections. Mr. Hier served in the accounting department at Iowa State Penitentiary for 5 years before moving into this position.

-John Mathes has been named Interim Superintendent at the Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility filling the position left vacant when Dr. Carter resigned.

-Curt Smith, former Legislative Liaison is now serving as Executive Assistant to the Director of Corrections. Michael Savala General Counsel for the DOC and Fred Scaletta, Deputy for Public Relations are serving as Legislative Liaisons.

-Terry Boehlje, has retired after many years of dedicated service as Executive Secretary to the Director of Corrections. Faye Olson will be working in that position.

- Charles Harper, who served for many years as Administrative Law Judge at Iowa State Penitentiary and became well-known due to the case: Goff et all vs. Harper, has been assigned to work at Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility. No replacement at ISP has been named.

Annual Meeting of Iowa CURE

The Annual Meeting of the Iowa Chapter of CURE was held at Grace United Methodist on Nov. 30th, 2007 at 7 p.m. by President Jean Basinger. The Treasurer reported that we have we have a current balance of \$1708.98. Of that balance \$375.93 is the remaining balance of \$600 given to pay for secretarial expenses. \$285 belongs to the Iowa Coalition to Oppose Life Without Parole for Children. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as reported.

Report of the Board of Iowa CURE: The Board has accepted the resignation of Joan Clary as Secretary. The Board voted to join the Iowa Coalition to Oppose Life Without Parole for Children and to allow them to hold their money in our account on a temporary basis.

The following slate of officers for the Board of Iowa CURE was presented:

Jean Basinger:	Class of 2009	Mary Kay Dial: Class of 2010
Anne Bickell:	Class of 2009	Jackie Robinson: Class of 2010
Eddie Bloomer:	Class of 2009	David Spencer: Class of 2010

There were no nominations from the floor and a unanimous ballot was passed for the slate. The meeting was adjourned.

Following the annual business meeting Iowa CURE joined the Des Moines Chapter of Women's InterNational League for Peace and Freedom and the Justice Reform Consortium in presenting a forum on the needs of the Mental III in Iowa's Prisons, Jails, and Communities. The keynote speaker was Mary Beth Pfeiffer, Author of the book, CRAZY In AMERICA, Dr. Bruce Sieleni, Mental Health Director for the DOC and President of Iowa NAMI and Senior Officer, Kelly Drain, of the Des Moines Mobile Crisis Response Team. Over 125 people attended the forum.

ARRESTED? WHAT HAPPENS IF TO YOUR BENEFITS IF YOU GO TO JAIL OR PRISON

This guide explains what will happen to your federal benefits if you are arrested and held in jail or prison and how you can get them back when you are released. It is a available on line at www.bazelon.org or can be purchased for \$4.50 at Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, 1101 15th St. N.W. Suite 1212, Washington, D.C..

FEEL YOUR PERSONAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED? If you feel that your personal rights have been violated you should feel free to contact the legal intake program of the Iowa American Civil Liberties Union at 901 Exchange Bldg, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2310. State how you feel your personal rights are being interfered with, how you are being affected and what you would like the Iowa ACLU to do. Write this in NO MORE than three very precise paragraphs. If you write a lengthy letter you will probably not get a response. DO NOT send legal papers. You will get a response if you state your problem clearly and in short form.

WHAT IS IOWA CURE

lowa CURE is a multi-issue, membership-based organization which brings individuals concerned about the correctional to work for change both inside and outside prison walls in order to promote healing and restorative justice within the community. CURE believes in fair and humane treatment of lowa inmates and more reliance on alternatives to prisons as solutions to crime problems.

WHAT IOWA CURE IS NOT

lowa CURE is not a legal aid service organization. Do not send us your legal documents. We have no paid staff and no legal staff. **PLEASE NOTE OUR CURRENT ADDRESS:** P.O. BOX 41005, Des Moines, Iowa 50311

UPDATE ON PROBLEMS WITH MAIL SERVICE

We continue to get reports of problems with mail service, especially at Clarinda. These include mail and photos being damaged, Mail not being sent out in a timely fashion or not at all. Items being considered contraband and sender or receiver not being notified. CURE has contacted Fred Scaletta, Public Relations Director for the DOC. He has informed us that each person must use the grievance process to file a complaint regarding their individual problems. Some of you report trying to send mail to lowa CURE using legal mail. Iowa CURE does NOT qualify to send or receive legal mail. You must send mail to CURE using regular mail services. Do not send mail by registered or certified mail. The mail goes to our post office box and there is no one to sign for it so it will be returned. Some of you report having written to us 3 or 4 times with no response. We can assure you we did not receive your letters. Be sure to use the P.O. Box number on this newsletter.

HABEAS CORPUS

A writ requiring a person be brought before a judge or court to determine whether the person has been detained or imprisoned legally. The right to obtain such a writ as a protection against illegal detention or imprisonment.

ENDING EXCESSIVE USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION

Across the country there is a growing movement to ban the use of solitary confinement (administrative segregation) except for very short periods of time. Solitary confinement is defined as more than being locked in a single cell. It is denial of any type of group activities i.e., eating together, treatment programs, education, jobs, religious services, etc. Prisoners are allowed out of their cells only to exercise in cages and to take showers.

Former Iowa Director of Corrections Gary Maynard, who is President of the American Correctional Association and Secretary of Corrections for the State of Maryland, recently completed an investigation of allegations of abuse of segregation in Maryland. The conclusions and changes made were as follows:

Segregation of 180 days was determined to be excessive; inmates on segregation are entitled to receive the same programming as any other inmate at the prison; the DOC levels program is being adjusted with the focus on the length that inmates stay at each level; and the department will adopt the ACA standards policy 4-4244 which requires that confinement longer than 30 days be reviewed by the Warden. (Some Maryland) inmates had reportedly been in segregation for more than one year) Source: OUTSIDE CONNECTIONS

CURE and the office Ombudsman's office have received reports from prisoners who had reportedly been in segregation for 3 years. The CURE board would like to request that Director Baldwin follow in the footsteps of former Director Maynard and conduct a similar investigation of the use of administrative segregation in Iowa's prisons.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION 2007 DUES NOTICE Please remember to pay your 2008 lowa CURE dues.

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How do I join? Fill out the application form below and mail it with your membership fee to the Iowa CURE office address below.		Annual Membe Prisoner Individual	\$2 \$10
Name	·····	Family Sustaining	\$20 \$50
Address		Life	\$100
City	StateZip		
Email		IOWA CURE P. O. BOX 41005 Des Moines, IA 50311	
Please remove me from this mailing list			

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Why should I join CURE?

Being a CURE member gives you access to experienced staff, reputable research, political action, community organizing, leadership and strategy development as well as informative fact sheets, action alerts, legislative and issue updates. Please feel free to photocopy this newsletter/application to pass along to interested friends, family, associates or loved ones in prison.