

Lifers Inc.
SCI Graterford
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Graterford, PA 19426

SAMPLE LETTER TO GOVERNOR REGARDING COMMUTATION

Dear Governor Wolf,

As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I write to express my concern about the state of the Department of Corrections system. With the prison population and budgets at all-time highs, the current situation demands our attention, and our correctional system need to adapt to one of a contemporary society, and figure out how to best make use of taxpayers' money and make the needed changes towards a humane, just, and restorative correctional system.

From 1967 to 1995 (a period of 28 years) there were 380 commutations granted; and from 1995 to 2017 (a period of 22 years) there were only 8 commutations granted. Why has there been such a disparity in the numbers? Historically, the facts show that many life-sentenced persons are great candidates for commutation. They are model prisoners and the least likely to re-offend or recidivate, less than one percent (0.3%).

I urge you to re-consider the criterion and process for commutation that would offer a greater opportunity for relief in the overcrowded prison system and Pennsylvania DOC budget. While life incarceration without the possibility of parole may be appropriate in some situations, it can offer the possibility and hope of rehabilitation to those incarcerated but working hard to change their lives.

Sincerely,

A citizen for positive change