

April 2, 2013

Dear Senator Prozanski,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 3194. I have extensive experience in the criminal justice field having served in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (1984 – 2003), the last twelve years as a warden at the California Correctional Institution, a maximum-medium custody prison for 6,000 men. In addition, I was an adjunct professor for eight years in the Criminal Justice Department at California State University, Bakersfield. And, I spent two years doing facility reviews for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). I presently live in Eugene and I'm honored to be on the Board of Directors of Sponsors. This is a good Bill and it's needed.

House Bill 3194 recognizes many strategies and program alternatives that are proving successful in other states in their efforts to address public safety in an effective and budget-conscious manner. A few examples: HB 3194 speaks to the importance of judicial discretion by removing many mandatory minimum prison sentences; Sees the importance of specialty courts that are demonstrating effective and carefully crafted programs that are improving public safety (specialty courts often serve as alternatives to incarceration and reduce subsequent offending); Does the "right thing" by authorizing judicial review of inmates who were 15 to 17 years old when they committed their crime; Provides for sentence reductions for eligible offenders; Creates incentive funding mechanisms for qualifying counties to establish evidenced-based alternative correctional practices and; Recognizes the importance of "other eyes" by establishing the Task Force on Public Safety Oversight to review provisions of the Bill. This Task Force can recommend the fine-tuning that is needed when new legislation is in-acted.

I wish you great success in your efforts to get HB 3194 passed.

Very Sincerely,

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