
Colorado

Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

*Prevention, treatment, and alternatives work
Prison should be the last resort*

January 25, 2007

Governor Bill Ritter
Ms. Stephanie Villafuerte, Deputy Chief of Staff
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203

Also sent via email to: STEPHANIE.VILLAFUERTE@STATE.CO.US

Dear Governor Ritter and Ms. Villafuerte:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our ideas with you for managing growth in the prison population. We have a number of suggestions and our supporting letter is long. Therefore, in order to aid your reading, the following is a summary our suggestions. The attached letter goes into depth on each point.

SUGGESTION 1: Reduce revocation rates for people on probation, parole, and community corrections.

SUGGESTION 2: Parole more people prior to their mandatory release date

SUGGESTION 3: Revise the current model of mandatory parole

SUGGESTION 4: Lower the crime classification for use/possession of drugs to a misdemeanor

SUGGESTION 5: Increase funding for substance abuse and mental health treatment.

SUGGESTION 6: Repeal the mandatory, consecutive sentence for "escape" when the factual basis is other than an escape from a prison, jail or other locked facility.

SUGGESTION 7: Expand eligibility for earned time to people in prison following a parole revocation, people on re-parole, and people on parole for a violent offense.

SUGGESTION 8: Conduct additional research into the causes behind the disproportionate increase in the growth rate of the women's prison population and the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our suggestions. We look forward to working with you and your administration in shaping a new direction for Colorado.

Yours truly,

Christie Donner
Executive Director
cc: members of the General Assembly

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