

I am writing on behalf of supporting parole. I believe that everyone should have the same rights state to state to request parole and have programs to help individuals reenter into a community. I was a Maine resident for 43 years and I still have a house in Maine. and have a daughter in MCC. Her being in a prison has mentally and emotionally put me right there with her. I know I'm not the only parent who feels this way, especially good, caring parents. I have relocated to Tennessee a few years ago and have worked with individuals in the Knoxville area who were chronically arrested, and also a few individuals reentering into a community who have mental illness. As a social worker I helped support individuals in the courts as well as help assist in housing and resources to make these individuals transition successful. I believe caring individuals also enrich other individuals just by showing someone cares. Many individuals have nobody to love and support them, which can also be at fault of their own, or just not have any support at all. I do believe that many individuals are sometimes lost, on drugs when doing crimes and are not the same people once they are in jail or prison due to no access to drugs and sobriety, on the other end, I do believe that some individuals are just very sick who will never be able to change. I do also believe that inside the jails can either be good and learn from your behavior or bad, as I have heard many times of CO's making things worse and very few caring ones. While I do understand that people who commit crimes have made poor choices to be there, I do also believe that CO's should be doing a job professionally as these people are there serving their time.