

## Testimonial Letter Of support of LD 648

To; Senator Beebe Center, Representative Hasenfus, Honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

My name is Franklin Arbour, I am 48 and I am currently serving a 25 all but 18 year sentence for drug related offenses. Though nearing a point in my sentence where I could be transferred to a minimum facility I feel the need to speak on behalf of myself and those here with me in support of LD 648.

I served 8 years 4 months in the federal prison system and truly believe they did not provide enough to help transition or at least in my case that is. I only received 3 weeks "halfway" house before being sent home, there was no assistance in looking for housing or employment. There was nothing implemented in FBOP that compares to what is addressed in LD 648. Instead I got out and fended for myself and made my own way.

Can you imagine serving a number of years and not having the tools or resources to succeed in the real world? Or one day they come to your cell say it is time to go home? (Knowing you have no place or anyone to go to?) I have met people who commit a new violent crime in prison nearing release just to stay because they have nothing and no one helping them.

When I got to MSP Warren I did not care I actually hated, and blamed everyone for my sentence. At that time my sentence was the longest ever handed down for a non-violent drug crime. I did reoffend in prison and had to serve an 18month inter-up sentence making my upfront serve time of 19 and a half years.

Since then I have lost many friends and family members and sadly some to the kind of drugs I sold out there.

Now I am a pro- active member here and do my best to promote doing the right thing. I built a program that has generated over 200k in profit that benefits the residents throughout all of DOC. I am the resident teacher of the welding program giving residents the "tools and skills" to succeed in life outside these prison walls. I donate more then I make to civic groups and places in need, as I focus on building a better tomorrow.

I will conclude with this, I changed because I wanted to, but that desire was triggered by my sentence nearing its end and losing my brother (Eddie) and step dad (Bob) 4 months apart. Eddie passed from complications from drug usage and lack of taking care of himself. Now I carry that guilt of enabling him daily and heavily.

I beg of you to help change the minds of other residents and community members. Give them active goals to meet, let them know if they do good, great things can and will come their way. Give incentives to reach for instead of a sentence and nothing more. People change but often times the carrot will lead a horse and the same can be said here, the incentive will lead the change. Please support and pass LD 648...

Thank you all for your time and consideration.