

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Sean Boyd and I am currently serving a 20 year sentence.

Upon arriving in MDOC custody, I quickly learned that nearly preconceived notions of prison and inmates were completely askew. I expected a lack of value for life, rules and humanity. A portion of the population had a high regard for these values, men who had violated legal and moral expectations and landed in prison. Because of shame and guilt over their crime, they often exhibit a higher regard for these values than those I know on the street or even those who oversee us now. I believe that anyone: public, legislator, judges, or lawyers, would see the same if they took the opportunity to look.

I have no greater guilt in life than the harm my crime has had on my victim, family, friends, and community. I am doing everything that I can to atone for my crime, live a highly moral, legally correct, and prosocial life. A second guilt I carry is the cost of my incarceration on society.

It is my belief that I deserve to be in prison for my crime. I question the length of my sentence. I believe people should pay a debt to society to atone for their crime. I don't believe that warehousing prisoners, especially as a cookie-cutter approach, serves the public or the prisoner well.

For prisoners who take radical accountability for their crime, take great care and serve their time responsibly, who engaged in prosocial behaviors, go beyond required programs and routinely engage in selfless acts, should have an opportunity to be vigorously evaluated to determine if a less confined, correction, environment is appropriate. Examples include: being transferred to medium or minimum facilities, placed on community confinement, supervised release, or parole, no matter the number of years remaining.

The use of New Age technology should be integrated so that tracking and accountability can be assured and maintained. Examples: GPS tracking devices, biometric monitors, cameras, and/or other technology to monitor all aspects of inmates in the public.

This has many valuable benefits:

1. Acknowledges that a one-size-fits-all approach is not true justice.
2. Rewards desired behavior and confirms correction progress.
3. Reduces cost of incarcerated individuals. (This could actually transfer monitoring, health and other costs to the incarcerated individual.)
4. Restores family units and reduces broken homes, recidivism, or our children becoming criminals.
5. Returns individuals to the community who have been vetted and deemed to be very low risk, rather than dumping unvetted, unchanged, hardened, criminals back on the streets with little to no chance of success.

I pray you all get to know the population as residents of MDOC. Learn the stories that led them to criminal activities and compare who they are today to the time of the crime. There are examples of humanity to be found in these walls. I assure you all are not ready for this, but many are. If you have ever done something wrong, morally, or legally, were caught or not have mercy, and grace on others who may not be so different than yourselves, especially those who have learned from their past and are striving for better future.

Thank you  
Sean Boyd  
Maine State Prison

PS I can't change my past, but I can take radical accountability for my actions and learn from them and be a better human being going forward