

Bill to Enable Prison Staff⁺ to Release Excellent Prisoners

To: Epoch Times Editorials

Cc: Robert Powell, Warden, USCF

by Sterling D. Allan, 228033

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As an inmate who has been incarcerated for 6.5 years, I'd like to present what could be one of my best ideas yet. I hope this will germinate and be adopted worldwide. This occurred to me yesterday, and after brainstorming for a while, I wondered why no one has ever thought of this before (that I know of). An idea whose time has come?

The basic idea is to enable prison staff to recommend an excellent prisoner to be released. By "staff," I'm thinking of those who have significant exposure to the inmate, such as officers, therapists, case workers, instructors, or ecclesiastical leaders and other volunteers. An inmate thus recommended would then be interviewed by someone from highest local political office, such as a speaker of the state house or senate, or from the governor's office, who would give the final pardon.

Presently, in many prisons, a prisoner's release is in the hands of the board of pardons, who don't see the inmate in a daily/societal setting.

If prisoners knew they could be released by becoming excellent, wouldn't that give them strong in-

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centive to strive for excellence? Webster's defines "excellent" adj The best quality; exceptionally good." Expanding on "excellence," the criteria should include the four main areas of body, mind, spirit, and emotions.

How would prison staff's attitudes and motivations change if they knew that a prisoner who is striving to improve might request from them a letter of recommendation? On May 17, 2018, I composed the following ideal, which this initiative would give cause to become reality:

"IMAGINE prison staff members who love their jobs and the satisfaction they get in helping inmates heal broken lives and return to society anxious and ready to become model citizens."

The current state is very far removed from that ideal. To his credit, when I met for 1:15 hours with then Deputy Warden, Robert Powell on July 10, 2018 (Nikola Tesla's B-day), he agreed with this sentiment, but said that implementing it is not so easy.

Presently, "time-served" is ^{often} the primary factor for release, almost regardless of behavior. No wonder recidivism (sp?) is so abysmal. Sometimes there are some minor reductions in sentence duration for incentives such as taking classes, sometimes for good behavior. Hence, most inmates mostly just coast while in prison, twiddling their thumbs. Some revel in gang activities. It seems they're the ones who cycle in & out of pris-

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on like a revolving door. Short sentences, dangerous.

As a corollary to releasing prisoners for excellence, the same principle could be applied to keeping prisoners locked up who are not ready for release, still posing a threat to society. At the same time, inmates should be able to be aware of allegations, so they can counter them.

I would argue that the sole criterion for release from prison should be genuine repentance and healing, not time served. Yes, that would require a God-honoring/acknowledging society. But the above concept is something we could implement now, in transition.

While the Marxists want to release prisoners to destabilize society, let us be the ones who want to inspire prisoners to excel so they can be released for good behavior, ready to become model citizens, improving the world in magnificent ways.

What do you think?

Sterling (means "excellent" ☺) D. Allan

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Favor: If you like the above editorial, I'd appreciate it if you'd contact Epoch Times to encourage them to publish it in their newspaper. I'd love to hear your thoughts, also. Sterling D. Allan, 228033; P.O. Box 165300; SLC, UT 84116 USA.