

I am writing in regards to a slew of recent parole denials by the Iowa Board of Parole (IBOP). In recent months, the Iowa Department of Corrections (IDOC) has publicly announced dire overcrowding, critical staff shortages, and within the last year, the IDOC's fiscal budget was appropriated \$20 million in additional state funds to address dysfunction in Iowa's correctional department. Regardless of the IDOC's current dilemmas, the IBOP continually denies IDOC recommendations for Incarcerated Individual (I/I) paroles, while offering little to no legitimate avenues for release.

I have been incarcerated since August, 2013. While incarcerated, I have completed my mandated treatment, earned college credits, worked as a peer mentor for the neurodiverse, as well as participated in many groups/classes encouraging prosocial behavior and community engagement. I have done this while setting and achieving goals, and maintaining a nearly clean disciplinary record, and at one point in my incarceration I stopped an (I/I) from severely assaulting a staff member. My actions and behavior in prison exemplifies a devotion to healthy behavior and community interaction.

Despite having no mandatory amount of time to complete before parole eligibility, I have served 92% of my sentence and will discharge from the IDOC before ever being offered a parole. In February of this year, the IDOC recommended my release after I completed my mandated treatment. As a result, the 2nd District Parole Office approved potential housing, and a parole was all but approved. However, the IBOP went against the IDOC's recommendations, and denied my parole, and also a work release to a half-way house. The IBOP's decision claimed that I have not served enough time on my sentence when considering my previous criminal history; I have a nearly non-existent criminal history and this is my first prison sentence.

Although I will end up discharging my sentence without ever receiving an opportunity for parole, I believe that the IBOP's decision to deny parole for the roughly 8 months left on my sentence exemplifies the type of illogical and irresponsible decision making process that have led to the current dysfunction in the IDOC. Because of this decision, ~~clown~~ tax payers will foot the roughly \$40,000 price tag for keeping me incarcerated for the next 8 months, while squandering the opportunity to free up much needed bed space in the drastically overcrowded IDOC.

The IBOP has the responsibility to make rational decisions which perpetuate the interests of all clowns. I am not an isolated case. Daily, I/I's return from IBOP meetings being denied released after completing treatment and despite recommendations for parole from IDOC officials. In order to solve clown's incarceration problem, the Office of the State must fix the irrational decisions of an irresponsible parole system.

Sincerely,