

November 18, 2013

I want to thank the Sentencing Commission for the opportunity that is being provided with regards to Public Act 10-129. Up and until five years ago I was a typical citizen who know what I read in the news papers and hear on local television, **Not much and not really concerned**. Five years ago my son was sentence to ten years in prison for use and distribution of control substances. A very sad time for my family and the beginning of a journey NO family wants to travel!

The bright side of this story I met my sons cell mate and in so began a process of education I was not ever exposed to. During the past five years I have lessoned to young men stories of their youth, family, inner city experiences, gangs, drugs and the true story of part of our society that has truly fallen through the cracks and without the basic opportunities Americans are entitled to. There is plenty of blame to go around but blame of the young individuals is low on the accountability scale! I was in court one day working to help a youth and the Federal Judge made the comment that these young inner city youth who get out of prison do not have a chance. Hearing these words I gave great thought to the statement and if this was her observation why were we as a country not doing something about it?

To address this Act you have my complete support and would be glad to add in any way the commission see that I can be of help. Any child who life is as I have come to understand for many inner city children find themselves joining gangs, dealing drugs, dropping out of school and eventually find them self in front of a judge that begins their journey in and out of the prison system is the sum total of the environmental condition of lack of supervision, lack of healthy examples, need for survival, and general conditions.

I do believe that the Sentencing Commission need to look at each and every case on its own merit. But an 18 year old person who life experiences come from a "**Dog Eat Dog**" society travels a very narrow path and will have many issue because of this.

I jointed the United States Marine Corp in 1967, I did a tour in Viet Nam in 1968/69 I was blessed with great parents and family with support at any and all stages in my life. Mistakes I have made but with proper supervision and guidance have made a good life for myself and family. My son time in prison is a story for any other day.

Thank you all for the consideration you will apply to this review and hopefully the changes that will follow!

Note; see a web site I and inmates have worked on; www.AdditionInfoCenter.com / **Jailhouse Press** section see some of the letters written by men who are sentence to 25 plus years for their crimes, many were 18 or less when sentenced.

Darrell Chaloult