

7-15-26

Joint Committee on Judiciary
Legislative Office Building, Room 2500
Hartford CT 06106

Much is said these days regarding 'AI'. Corrections faces its own problems with 'AI', however this is a different issue.

This 'A.I' stands for Apathy and Indifference. Nobody cares about the prison system, except when it can be used as a campaign issue, varying from 'lock 'em up' to 'let 'em go'.

The name 'Corrections' is itself a misnomer, as there is very little in the way of 'correction' being done, rather it is a punitive system of human warehousing.

While there are myriad issues to be addressed, this letter will only focus on a few problems.

First, our prisons do very little to prepare inmates for re-entry to society. There is the opportunity to educate inmates, and not just our juvenile offenders. Almost no effort is made to educate at least to a GED level. Only those with the initiative and self motivation to seek out basic education gain it. Far too many inmates spend their sentence as a 'punk on a bunk', bouncing a basketball and watching 'Wheel of Fortune'. Education should be a priority, including the English language. **MANDATORY**

Wall Street has no place for strictly Spanish speakers, and Main Street USA has no openings for Ebonics. Corrections has a brief opportunity to provide meaningful education, both in a classroom setting and teaching marketable skills, yet we fail in both areas.

Second, our prisons are lacking in mental health care. In the

1970's, our society shut down the institutions formerly housing our mentally handicapped citizens. Some of these individuals needed to be protected from society, others were cases where society needed to be protected from them. In far too many instances, these people ended up in a Correctional facility, without the help and support they need. Yes, they may have committed an offense, but Corrections is doing nothing to remedy their problems, in some cases just applying medication to keep them docile.

Third, with our courts' propensity to hand down excessive sentencing, we are faced with an ageing prison population, even in light of studies and documentation showing older inmates to be almost free of recidivism. The medical staff is not prepared in geriatrics, nor are the physical facilities themselves designed to hold elderly inmates, most of whom hold no threat to society, but are unable to seek a sentence review because of archaic laws and outdated policies of our system.

I write this at risk of retribution by the Correctional system, however these and many other problems I've observed in my 11 years of incarceration, need to be addressed. To be a part in improving the lives of our incarcerated is worth whatever hardship I must endure.

Thank You for Your Time,
God Bless You

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