

12/22/23

Dear Attorney General Brown,

This is my second time writing you about my individual experience with the Maryland Criminal justice system. I am serving a 13 year sentence for a misdemeanor violation of probation. I have served nearly 5 years of this sentence without any infractions or conduct issues. Prior to my incarceration I worked for an engineering company and had attended college until my junior year. I previously wrote to you about my plight with the Maryland Parole Commission. It also has to be mentioned that I am enrolled in Georgetown University and earning my degree while I am here in prison. I'm sure that you have received some insight into how the State of Maryland can reduce the high rate of black males that it incarcerates. Attorney General Brown the Parole system is a vital part of the problem. Parole in Maryland is too focused on retribution and not concerned with if a person has changed and can add to the community in a positive way. The only thing I have control over is my own commitment towards being a better person, learning from this experience and being successful in my life. My ability to earn a living and provide for my children were not considered in the decision to deny me parole. I have a supportive family behind me, a great home plan and a job waiting for me. How long am I

Supposed to expect an employer to wait for me? Over 5,900 individuals went up for Parole last year in Maryland and 959 were granted Parole. I'm having a hard time understanding how a person can do everything humanly possible to follow the rules and guidelines and actually commit to changing their life and yet still be denied Parole. I was originally granted a re-hearing but was told my re-hearing was cancelled and my Parole was being denied for writing a letter. This letter expressed my growth as a person, and how remorseful I am for my past and for putting myself in this situation. How could this be considered as a bad thing or used as a reason to deny someone Parole? It's unfair and unjust and my family and myself have been hurt tremendously by a decision that gave no concern to me as a human. The Maryland Parole Commission is so dedicated to saying no and to keeping people in prison as long as possible. I was told to ask for a reconsideration in two years. Two more years confined, still following the rules, still educating myself and two more years not providing for my children. It is beyond discouraging and my belief in the system and justice does not exist. I am 42 years old and have been incarcerated during a time that I should have been gaining ground in my career and raising my children.

I believe that any criminal conviction misdemeanor or felony in Maryland is the justification for a long sentence. At some point someone has to see that 42,000 spent on inmates for years is not fiscally reasonable. It especially makes no sense if that individual is incarcerated for a misdemeanor, is college educated, and has the necessary tools to be successful in the community. Thank you again for taking the time to read this letter. There are so many issues with the system but it would take too many letters to express them. I saw you on tv and I hoped that you would be genuine in your questions about how we can change things in Maryland. It remains to be seen how much change will actually come about and how soon it can be expected. Please help because you don't fully understand how much it is needed.

Sincerely,
Eric Fox



