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RE: Reform

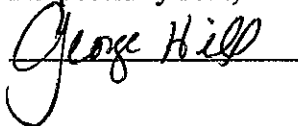
I commend the Division of Parole for taking a step closer to parole reform by making the additions to section 8002.2 Part A (Risk and Needs Assessments). Furthermore, it's understandable there is great difficulty when it comes to deciding whom to release or deny because of the safety of society and the victims of all crimes. The change is encouraging to my family and me because it brings hope to where hope is being lost.

In addition to the proposed new rules and regulations of 8002.2 Part A (Risk and Needs Assessments) should read: *"If a Board determination, denying release, departs from the COMPAS scores, an individualized **"inherently correctible"** reason(s) for such departure should be given in the decision."*

This new proposal will give the inmate the opportunity during the period between boards to find a remedy for the identified ***inherently correctable*** reasons of denial. Otherwise, if a reason is inherently uncorrectable—such as “nature of the crime”, it will be uncorrectable at every parole hearing thereafter. Accordingly, the appropriate sentence was then meted out: since the “minimum term, by law and definition, is a penal sanction which is commensurate with the perceived severity of the crime” [N.Y. Penal Law, § 265.09(2)(McKinney 1998)]. Thus, to extend a person's time again and again beyond the minimum term—based solely on the NOC—effectively amounts to multiple acts of resentencing by the Parole Board.

In addition to this, it is my belief that taking an objective view of the statistics for college educated men and women prisoners and comparing their rates of recidivism with those non-college men and women prisoners; it will clearly show education to be a major factor that keeps people from being recidivist.

Respectfully sent,

  
George Hill