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Kathleen M. Kiley
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Department of Correction & Community
Supervision
1220 Washington Avenue, Bldg. 2
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October 24, 2016

Dear Ms. Kiley:

This is in response to your recent correspondence of October 13, 2016, wherein you ask me to provide useful information with regard to the parole board.

For starter, I have appeared before the Board of Parole on three (3) separate occasions over the course of 31 years. Most notably, in 2015 I was denied parole with a 24 month hold, due to misdemeanor convictions dating as far back as 1982 and 1984. It was my third unsuccessful bid for early release. Ever since my initial appearance, the parole board invariably alludes to either the nature of my instant offense or denies parole on the basis of my criminal history, rather than giving weight to my outstanding accomplishment and exemplary deportment. For example, throughout my incarceration, I earned a General Equivalency Diploma (GED); completed Transitional Services' phase 1, 2 & 3; completed Alternative to Violence Program (AVP); completed Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART); and completed the Osborne Association's Family Works Program. Among other accomplishments, I have received vocational training in food service; Utility Work Gang; Laundry Maintenance; Metal Shop; Carpentry Floor Covering; Printing Shop; and Physical Education.

In addition, as an incarcerated parent myself, I have endorsed and sponsored "Children Of Promise," which is a non-profit organization helping children cope with absentee fathers figures due to mass incarceration.

Finally, I support the SAFE Parole Act including the BILL currently pending before the New York State Assembly for Parole and Criminal Justice Reform. Our parole system is irreparably broken and badly in need of an overhaul. We can start by radically changing the Executive Law or dissolving the parole board in its entirety. In my opinion, as long as the parole board is given inordinate discretion, I fear that very little will be changed.

If you wish to further comment and opinions on the issue of parole, feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,


JOHN CURRY #88-A-2854

Cc: file