

Connections
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Law and Justice Interim Committee Meeting

My name is Casey Rudd and I am the Founder/Director of Connections. We have several programs within our organization of which one is called Con Connection where one of our tasks is to advocate for prisoners in Montana. Also within our organization is a network called the Montana Criminal Justice Reform Network with a current membership of 3500 persons who are interested in helping to create "positive change" within the current system. We have an Advisory Board made up of 70 prisoners located in every facility in the state. Occasionally the Advisory Board members distribute surveys to inmates in their facility for us so that we can find out what the issues are that they would like addressed from out here.

In your packet is a sample survey we did in 2006, we had 11 responses from Gt. Falls, 6 from Glendive, 139 from Shelby, 457 from MSP, of the 613 that responded about 200 had received paroles but were still waiting to be released. Some had been waiting in excess of two years for various reasons. For example, some had been given pre-release recommendations and none of the pre-releases would accept them, it took over one year for the inmate's paperwork to circulate through the system three times before they could ask for a different recommendation from the board. If this scenario happens to 100 inmates at a cost of \$94.00 a day or \$34,310 a year to house them the cost to Montana tax payers is \$3,431,000.00 a year to house inmates that have already earned their way back into society and are waiting to be released. Clearly our current system is not working and is warehousing prisoners that have maintained clear conduct, completed all programs and have earned their way back into the community. Our prisons and regional facilities are overcrowded with non-violent offenders that most have been returned for technical violations of parole or probation. Surely these offenders could be doing programs in the community and maintaining their jobs and housing instead of costing Montanans millions of dollars. On behalf of the MT Criminal Justice Reform Network we are requesting that you examine mandatory parole and or restoring good time and asking that this committee add this to your study plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this request if you have any questions or need more information please contact me at any of the numbers above.

Sincerely,

Casey Rudd

Law & Justice Interim Committee
September 9, 2011

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Exhibit 24

Informational Survey

If you have been passed over for parole by the Montana Board of Pardons and Parole and meet the following criteria, please fill out this survey and return it to Connections.

I hereby assert that: I have completed all of my required courses. YES _____ NO _____
I have over 6 months of clear conduct. YES _____ NO _____
I have worked for 6 months or longer. YES _____ NO _____

I further assert that I would like to submit my individual case/experience to Connections to assist them in advocating for change in the corrections system.

Name _____ AO# _____.

My crime was _____.

I was sentenced out of _____ county, in the year of _____.

I was sentenced to a total term of _____ years with _____ years suspended.

My initial parole eligibility date was _____. I saw the Board on _____.

My parole was denied for the following reason or reasons. _____

I have reappeared in front of the Board _____ times. I have had a progress review done by the Board on my case _____ times. The dates of my reappearance/progress review for my case have been on the following days/dates and the outcomes of those is as follows: _____

My next reappearance /progress review date is _____. I was paroled on (date) _____ but have not left the prison because _____

Date

Signature

Thank you for your help and support.

Please send to:

Connections 1195 Stone Ridge Dr. #3 Bozeman, MT. 59718

Board Decisions from Jan-June 2010

██████████ – 419

██████████ – 108

Straight Parole – 60

██████████ – 377

<u>PRC</u>	<u>TSCT</u>	<u>ISP</u>	<u>CCP</u>	<u>Watch</u>	<u>NEXUS</u>	<u>ElkHorn</u>	<u>Interstate</u>	<u>Other</u>
178	31	39	14	3	5	1	41	65 = 377

██████████ – 569 all were flopped and will be seen again as indicated below

Pass to									
<u>2010</u>	<u>1yr</u>	<u>2yr</u>	<u>3yr</u>	<u>5yr</u>	<u>8yr</u>	<u>Discharge</u>	<u>Ineligible</u>	<u>Exec. C</u>	
77	209	65	16	6	1	173	9	13 =	569

TOTAL= 1533

Board Decisions from July – Dec. 2010

██████████ – 445

██████████ – 85

Straight Parole – 16

██████████ – 487

<u>PRC</u>	<u>TSCT</u>	<u>ISP</u>	<u>CCP</u>	<u>ITU</u>	<u>Watch</u>	<u>NEXUS</u>	<u>Interstate</u>	<u>Other</u>
188	44	41	12	5	28	7	55	107

██████████ – 504 all were flopped and will be seen again as indicated below

Pass to

<u>2010</u>	<u>1yr</u>	<u>2yr</u>	<u>3yr</u>	<u>4yr</u>	<u>5yr</u>	<u>8yr</u>	<u>Discharge</u>	<u>Ineligible</u>	<u>Exec. C</u>
33	222	70	15	1	16	0	120	12	15

TOTAL= 1537

Board Decisions from Jan – June 2011

██████ – 451

██████ – 125

Straight Parole – 31

██████ – 379 to prison expansion programs

<u>PRC</u>	<u>TSCT</u>	<u>ISP</u>	<u>CCP</u>	<u>ITU</u>	<u>Watch</u>	<u>NEX/EH</u>	<u>Interstate</u>	<u>Other</u>	
174	32	23	7	4	8	2	4	23	102

██████ – 529 all were flopped and will be seen again as indicated below

Pass to

<u>2011</u>	<u>1yr</u>	<u>2yr</u>	<u>3yr</u>	<u>4yr</u>	<u>5yr</u>	<u>6yr</u>	<u>Discharge</u>	<u>Ineligible</u>	<u>Exec. C</u>
64	205	60	9	7	13	1	133	9	28

TOTAL= 1515

Keep in mind these numbers reflect everybody the Board sees both in and out of prison. Again we see a lot of prisoners waiving their right to see the Board and there are various reasons for this to happen ie: not enough clear conduct, programs aren't done or maybe no place to go and no plan. Cases that are continued had a lot of different reasons as well, such as evaluations needed to be done or more information was needed for the Board to make a decision etc. Some of those getting straight paroles were already out here and had gotten in trouble and were just being reinstated on parole. The "other" category under paroled included a lot of guys that were seeing the Board because they had medical marijuana cards and were reported to the Board. In all cases the Board made them surrender their cards over to their parole officers and were not allowed to participate in that program because the Board stated it was detrimental to rehabilitation. I didn't see any 8 year flops this time around but they handed out a few 5 year flops.