

CARLOS RUIZ PAZ BCG420

MAY 2, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my thoughts and feelings about the effects that extreme sentencing, such as life without parole, has on our society as a whole. In order for the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation to serve its intended purpose to society, it should strive to effectively rehabilitate and correct the thinking and behavior of the individuals in its care. There is no incentive to make the effort and work toward positive transformation for the person who will spend the rest of their life behind concrete and steel away from the view of society. There is little benefit for an institution to spend resources and time rehabilitating a person who will never be ~~be~~ a part of society again. Having no possibility of parole undermines the department's mission to correct and rehabilitate. It would make a great impact if the CDCR could actually return people to society who have willingly done honest self-improvement work and who have shown themselves to be genuinely capable of being a positive asset to their communities and who have spent their time training to do so.

Something is seriously wrong in the life of a person who can disregard the rights of others and allows himself to act out violently against others. Prisons serve that legitimate purpose to separate individuals like that from the rest of society. The great remains, however, that whatever offenses a person is responsible for, they remain a human being that is still linked to society through family ties.

and other relationships, once a person is isolated in a controlled environment, society through its legal authority has the power to either nurture or sever that link with this person. A sentence of life without the possibility of parole declares that a person is irreparably damaged without hope of redemption. extreme sentences affect the kids who grow up without us and the parents that will die without us at their side. those sentences instruct our families that they should also sever their link to the human beings they love, nurturing it only exposes them to suffering.

The people we have harmed and their family members often feel a pain that will never go away because of actions we cannot take back. Their desire for us to suffer or to be punished is understandable. Society is faced with having to help people overcome a loss that is impossible to restore. extreme sentences have been the response to try to ease their pain. I would say unsuccessfully, from what I have experienced, extreme sentencing only amplifies and prolongs the suffering for everyone involved, it does not correct or rehabilitate.

I think it would benefit society to learn from each of our lives, to see where they went wrong, and to prevent others from repeating our errors. to tap into the values we still possess even after decades of imprisonment and see how we can contribute something of worth, when we are allowed to stop being defined by the transgressions of our youth and when we have hope of making up for the destruction we've caused, it can unlock purpose and creative potential to our lives. any path that can be created for us to make ourselves fully accountable for our past conduct and responsible for our current behavior

Toward being useful to society again
is welcomed. The possibility of parole one
day affords hope that we may be deemed
suitable to be able to make amends for
all the suffering we are responsible for
and that we are still working to be part
of society once we are ready.

Sincerely,

Carlos Ruiz Paz