

Dear Dax Proctor,

My name is Eileen Huber and I am currently an LWOP. I have been in custody over 30 years. In that time, my Father died, my mother died and my only sibling died. I only had one family visit before they were taken away from lifers and LWOPs. Being sentenced to LWOP meant living with the reality that the state expects me to die in prison. I was arrested a few months after I turned 19 years old. I arrived to prison and turned 20 years old with no hope of leaving prison. I had not taken life but I did not have the bravery to attempt trying to stop someone I loved from killing. This was my reality.

For the next few decades I did not even attempt to have hope. Losing the last of my family made me wonder what freedom would ever look like. I knew I wanted it, so I began my journey to discover who I am and what I want from life. This journey taught me that I do want a life but also taught me that I have a lot to give. I have matured into someone who is reliable, self-accountable, and able to have independent thought.

Over the years I have completed every step on the rehabilitation roadmap. At the conclusion of each class I get a reminder that I will receive no credit because I am an LWOP. I tried to move to the

prison down south to be closer to friends and maybe get visits. I'm ineligible because I'm an LWOP. I tried to apply for Joint Venture when it was here but told no. I am ineligible because I am an LWOP. The juvenile law changed acknowledging that the human brain is not mature at 19 and that is before its growth is stunted by drugs. That fact does not matter if your an LWOP. Could hit and high risk medical was considered for release but not LWOPs. 1170 (d) considered people for review of their changed life but LWOPs are not eligible. If I get sick and am about to die, I cannot apply for compassion release because I am an LWOP.

A sentence should not change facts. If I am a juvenile offender that is a fact. If I can prove rehabilitation, that's a fact. If I'm low level, I should be able to transfer. I want to see LWOPs receive all the same rights and privileges as lifers.

I recommend to lawmakers that they make laws that sees people. They change, they grow, they mature, they learn and they feel. This includes LWOPs.

Eileen Huber