

## Mujahid Farid

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**From:** Annette Arntsen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 2:59 PM  
**To:** JKoury@NYSenate.gov; Mujahid Farid  
**Subject:** Public Comment, Notice of Proposed Rule Making, 9 NYCRR, Part 8001 and Sections 8002.1(a) and (b), 8002.2 (a) and 8002.3

Dear Sir,

It is with the greatest of all emotions - hope that I am writing to you today. I have never before written a letter that has to convey something I believe so strongly in- a second chance. I believe in the ability to rectify wrongs and the fair treatment of all human beings.

I know that the time is right for parole reform. I know that inmates are not people we think of first in priority but they and their families know that reform is long overdue. This is not about being "soft on crime" it is about historically denied parole release to far too many people in an arbitrary and inconsistent manner. It is also about offering FALSE HOPE with programs and ISSUING EARNED ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES TO INMATES that are just ignored or brushed aside. That destroys moral, becomes a farce and EXPANDS CORRECTIONAL BUDGETS for no good reason. WHY offer these programs and issue these certificates? Why take the time to administer risk and assessment instruments if it is meaningless? Isn't that a waste of taxpayer's money? Please insist that parole release decisions cannot be made without a risk and needs assessment instrument and a program history (TAP) being provided to the Board of Parole.

No one in a prison can change his past crime. Each inmate has been sentenced and every Parole Board has an obligation to give appropriate weight to the extent of an individuals rehabilitation and the lack of risk to public safety if the individual is released. The use of merit time credits as a means of rewarding inmates for positive, in-prison behavior should be EXPANDED not ignored. First time, non violent offenders should be given the chance to re-enter society if they have a clean record in prison, have a certificate of earned eligibility and demonstrated rehabilitation. What is the point of holding these people? They can never undo what they did, so the nature of the crime should not be grounds for keeping them in prison. Isn't that resentencing?

The Board is not following guidelines based upon the statistics of parole denial. Please require the Board to release inmates who have a low risk score in a risk assessment and substantially participated in programs or earned eligibility. For anyone denied release, please provide regulations that require the Board to provide specific written instructions for the steps to take to be released. Isn't that just? fair? the goal of prisons? Please insist that the Board comply with the new Executive Laws and make it clear that the minimum period of imprisonment is SET BY THE COURT. The proposed amendment of 9 NYCRR 8002.2 (a) makes it sound as if the minimum is fixed by the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision THAT was under the OLD, OUTDATED regulation.

People make mistakes and they are in a prison paying for those mistakes the Board should not be making mistakes warehousing human beings who cannot undo their crimes and deserve a second chance. This is not being soft on crime. Truthfully, to ignore what is happening and the growing cost of warehousing people who should be released is the real crime.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very Truly Yours,

Annette Arntsen