

Good Morning to the members of the Legislature,

My name is Douglas Phillips Jr. and I am currently a prisoner at the Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility in St. Louis, Michigan. I have served 12 years of a 15 to 30 yr sentence for "assault with intent to murder", with 23 months left before review by the parole board. Key word being review. I took responsibility after committing the crime for which I am now currently incarcerated for by turning myself into the proper authorities to face my accusers and accept the penalty and punishment for my wrongdoing. I displayed remorse to those I harmed and their families, as well as my own. Learning that based on my actions our families and community was also harmed. From that day on I decided to be part of the solution and not that of the problem. In 2005 I became a facilitator of the pilot program of the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry initiative program. After meeting with a representative of Gov. Granholm's office and deputy Warden Carrberry at the Macomb Correctional Facility in which I was informed along with 9 other prisoners of the following trainers facilitator courses in which we all would be become educated. Anger Management, Cage your Rage, Conflict Resolution, Parenting, Time Management, Multi-cultural awareness, Cognitive thinking,, Budgeting and Financing. the ten of us experienced success as facilitators in facilitating other prisoners, proving the program could and would work in Michigan. Sadly to say after much funding into the MPRI program, myself and the other 9 prisoners were not allowed to facilitate anymore due to the hiring of retired corrections officers. Educated and still motivated i went on to teach and facilitate the alcohol, drug and substance abuse program for prisoners in which this was a RGC recommendations requirement for their paroles. To the members of the Michigan Legislature, the prosecutors representing the victims, and the victims family members, apologies, empathy and sympathy is in order, but I'm also asking something of you as well, and that its a chance to be forgiven and redeemed for accepting my fate and punishment, for the crime and only crime in which I committing and assumed responsibility for so doing. The facts on passing HB4497, 4498, 4499 does not automatically mean that a mass amount of prisoners will be released. The facts are that prisoners must meet a set of criteria. They must be misconduct free, for and during the good time credit review. Key word review. This review would be by the prison unit officers, in which the prisoner are housed and under the direct supervision with the final approval of the unit staff, Arus/ Counselor and the Warden of that said Correctional facility in which the prisoner is currently a resident. The second step is for the parole board review. Key word being review, In which the parole board members would review to see if the prisoner has met the required set of recommendations as set forth by the Receipting Guidance Center upon the prisoners entry into the Michigan Department of Corrections for which he or she must meet before release. which would include a psychological evaluation and the parole board having the final say. Simply put, the passing of HB 4497,4498,4499 will allow certain prisoners that meet all said above criteria to be placed in the jurisdiction of the parole board in which the parole board today follows its same review, rules as it would if these bill are to passed. Key word being review, as everything is reviewed.

Sincerely , Douglas Phillips Jr. (265663)

James

My name is James Lawson. I'm writing today not solely on the behalf of one inmate. I'm writing for those who have no other medium or voice. Our nation has been dealt a crushing blow, being the most prosperous nation and simultaneously the most imprisoned nation, with over 2 million inmates imprisoned in our justice system as of 2002. Undoubtedly, that number has grown. Though I admittedly don't know all 2 million offenses, I do know the purpose of prison is that of humane punishment and prompt social rehabilitation. My plea is that the length of the sentences be fitting based on behavior displayed during the rehabilitation, and not exclusively to initial sentences.

Sec. 33 of House Bill 4497 stands to emancipate those inmates contingent on their full, complete, indisputable rehabilitation, saying "The prisoners' mental and social attitude, the facts and circumstances behind their incarceration, and the knowledge that the prisoner will not be a menace to society".

My family and I support the bill, and hope that it will help to decrease the number of inmates and increase the number of capable and positive contributors to the crumbling social structure we're faced with today. My mother is raising her children without her husband, as no parent should. All children should have the chance to rise in a two parent household. Every child needs a mother, and a father. The extent of Douglas Phillips' crimes is overshadowed by his positive spirit and longing to establish a more peaceful life for all who know him, and some who don't. There are many men and women who, like him, make efforts to change their surroundings rather than conform. These people deserve a social title more fitting than "prisoner". Their positive attitudes and desire to change lives are stunted by their limited resources.

Personally, it is my belief that those rehabilitated and those not are bound to infect their attitudes on each other, rendering the imprisonment process moot. Leaving the good in with the others won't produce the desired results, hence the bill being written. We're here asking for the support of the bill. We're here asking for the support of mothers and fathers who have made the wrong turns, and have already made progress down the correct path. For the daughters and sons who have truly learned their parents' lessons behind bars, we ask for total support of 4497.

Yvonne

To whom it may concern,

In my opinion Doug Phillips my son-in-law will be an asset to the community if he is released early. He has great wisdom, knowledge and compassion for his fellow person. His desire to accomplish great things can be realized through his release. My daughter and her children and myself love and respect him. He gives good advice. His family and the city of Detroit will gain from his release.

Thank you,
Yvonne Mitchell
P.O. Box 88717
Indianapolis, In 46208

Pray the Word, Say The Word Ministries

2503 Columbus Street

New Orleans, La. 70119

February 23, 2010

To Whom it may concern:

Hi! I'm writing on behalf of Douglas Phillips Jr. I am his step mom, my name is Josephine Phillips and I have been an ordained minister since 1983, I pastor a church here in New Orleans at the above address. I work with a lot of churches and have partnered schools and people that is trying to help our youth of today. I am a certified counselor and have committed to help kids in the inner city of New Orleans. I'm a part of the Greater New Orleans and Justice for Pastors and The Isaih Inst. that helps to train with skills to help nthem to live a more productable life.

My letter is to ask you to release Douglas Phillips Jr. as soon as may be possible. He has the support of me and my family, he is a person of good character and right standing and also he has been helping many there in jail, and through call, he has helped me with situation I face here with my members and kids in the community. We would be so Blessed if you would release him.

Thank you and God Bless you,
Rev. Jospehine Phillips

Jason

Dear George Cushingberry,

I am writing you on behalf of Douglas Phillips my step father and inmate of your prison system. I am writing to inform you that I want to give my full support for the passing of House Bills 4497-4499. I believe that the passing of these bills will do wonders for the rehabilitation of inmates as well as releasing those who are ready to make amends and give back to the community. Giving inmates incentives to strive to behave not only prepares them to return to the community as an asset but also gives an overview of who's really committed to changing and who needs more time. Also releasing inmates who are ready to move on will free up a lot of cells and cut down on prison crowding and cost. These are some of the reasons that i would like to see these bills passed.

The main reason that I want to support these bills is because I would like to see my step-father released. Since coming into my life he has shown me a better way of living and put me on a path of responsibility. I find myself striving to become more like him as a father, a husband and a man. Douglas Phillips has been a father figure I never had growing up and has shown me how a father is supposed to act. I've witnessed him, from his position, take care of his daughter, his brothers and his grandson. He has given me countless advice and made my mother very happy.

My life has even been drastically changed by him being in it. As I mentioned before he put me on the path of responsibility by showing me that no matter the limitations put on me by other people that I could rise above them and overcome. Before I met him I had no drive no ambition I felt that given my circumstances the only thing I could look forward to was working in fast food restaurants for the rest of my life. Seeing him handle his responsibilities despite not being able to physically be there showed me that my excuses were just that, excuses. Also he helped re-establish my relationship with god. These things led to me going back to school, learning a trade, and getting on my feet to better support my family.

Another reason I would like him released is so he can be an asset to so many more troubled youth who may need the wisdom that he can give to them. He is already in the workings of setting up a program to help the at risk youth of today who feel that they don't have anywhere to turn. I intend to be involved fully because I know how hard it is out there for those who don't know where to turn. It will be a non-profit organization that I hope will flourish and improve the community and the youth's outlook on life. I know that people do wrong and should have pay a price but sometimes people who have done wrong need a chance to get out there and save those who may be straying towards the same path. I feel that Douglas has paid his price and would be more of an asset outside the walls than he could ever be inside. In closing I would like to just leave you with a few words. These bills would go a long way in benefiting the state of Michigan and the prison system which it upholds and would allow those who could make difference an opportunity to do so. I hope that this letter will help with your decision and I thank you for your time.

46268

Sincerely,
Jason Lawson
Indianapolis, In

313-989-6071