

buhogrunon...

Your comments were well noted and appreciated. It is my desire to share the insight I've gained over the years with the outside community, and at the same time, hopefully dissolve some of the stereotypes which exist of those in prison. The vast majority of us are neither arch villians or predators, but rather, ordinary people caught up in extraordinary circumstances. It appears to me that the taxpayers are receiving little in return for their investment; as long as a prisoner behaves, no one cares if he sits on his behind, watching television all day. While an employer may give an 18 year old with initiative the opportunity to prove his worth, try finding a job for that same person, coming out of prison at 40, with no skills or education. That is what most every Illinois prisoner faces upon release; no skills, limited education, and quite frankly, marginal chances to make it in today's marketplace. Illinois' recidivism rate is approximately 53% after three years, and I'm surprised it is that low. What segment of society can tolerate that failure rate?