

Prison reform could free 30,000 inmates

By Wayne Boatwright
Staff Writer

A series of criminal justice reforms, if adopted, would allow California to return 30,000 inmates to their communities.

Each year, California spends a combined \$20 billion in state prisons and county jails, according to *Safe And Sound: Strategies To Save A Billion In Prison Costs And Build New Safety Solutions*, a report by Californians for Safety and Justice (CSJ).

"That's a 500 percent increase in prison spending since 1981 ... California spends as much today on prisons as every state in the United States combined spent on prisons in 1981," reported CSJ.

CSJ makes three key recommendations to reduce mass incarceration:

- Give power back to the courts by ending mandatory minimum sentences.
- Parole more low-risk inmates. While the CDCR assesses 48 percent of California prisoners as low risk, many of these cannot benefit from existing reforms as their crime has been categorized as "violent."
- Let more inmates earn good-time credits for participating in rehabilitation programs.

"If state leaders implement the...reforms outlined in this report, the state could safely ... reduce the number of people in state prison by about 30,000," claims CSJ.

Implementing these recommendations, "could allow the state to close five prisons and save the state at least \$1.5 billion annually," according to CSJ.

CSJ recommends California use the savings to scale up victim trauma recovery, drug rehabilitation, mental health, job training and homeless support to break the cycle of crime. CSJ calls the strategy, Shared Safety Infrastructure.

"The goal has to be rehabilitation. Redemption has to be real," said Lenore Anderson, executive director of CSJ.

The report shows that even crime survivors support prison reform:

- By a 2 to 1 margin, for renewed focus on supervised probation and rehabilitation over sending people to jails or prisons.
- By a 7 to 1 margin, survivors want California to invest in health and drug treatment over jails and prisons.
- A majority think prisons make the problem worse by making better criminals instead of better citizens.

These numbers came from a first-of-its-kind survey of California crime victims conducted by CSJ.

"The long overdue task of replacing ineffective over-incarceration with smart justice in the nation's most populous state is finally underway," the report said, referring to voter-approved prison reform measures begun in 2012 that released thousands of inmates.

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INMATE REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

DATE	TO	FROM (LAST NAME)	CDCR NUMBER
9-13-18	[REDACTED]	Goehler	K77832
HOUSING	BED NUMBER	WORK ASSIGNMENT	JOB NUMBER
A2	233		FROM TO
OTHER ASSIGNMENT (SCHOOL, THERAPY, ETC.)			ASSIGNMENT HOURS
			FROM TO

Clearly state your reason for requesting this interview.
You will be called in for interview in the near future if the matter cannot be handled by correspondence.

Thanks for all you do with all the Self Help groups. I would like to know if there are CRIMINON Study Groups anywhere in the CDCR.

Do NOT write below this line. If more space is required, write on back.

INTERVIEWED BY	DATE
A. Eckhart	9-17-18

DISPOSITION
As far as I can see from the reports in SOMS there are currently NO CRIMINON groups being offered at any prison in CDCR.



REHABILITATION, REFORM, CRIME PREVENTION

Goehler, William K77832
P.O.W. 409020
Ione, CA 95640

May 12, 2017

Dear William,

I thank you for your letter, I received it well. I find it fantastic to see that you are doing all those activities to help your peers!

In regards to Criminon, if you wanted to start a Criminon group, you should be able to contact Criminon W.U.S. for their help. There is a Way to Happiness seminar that is very extensive and very effective that you should be able to get from there that you could use.

I'm not a hundred per cent sure how well established Criminon W.U.S. is on on-location seminars though. So if you need help with this you can definitely reach back out to me and I will see what we can do.

All the best,

[Redacted signature]

Sandro Lohmann
Executive Director
Criminon Florida