

WE SHOULD CARE BECAUSE ...?

On 10 September 2022, 74 year old prisoner Woodrow Willcoxon, died after 40+ years of punishment.

To the guards and prison staff, Woodrow's death was routine meaning nothing more than another available bed and the nuisance of having to inventory his meager possessions.

To the other wheelchair and walker bound advanced age prisoners in Woodrow's prison unit, his death came with the uncomfortable reality their ignoble death in prison is a little closer.

The sobering reality is California's prisons are packed with advanced age prisoners. Maybe, at one time they were menaces to society, but time and brutal prison conditions have taken such a toll on their minds and bodies they have been reduced to no threat to society; other than cheating at checkers. Yet, the majority of these old men are dying, or will die, in prison.

The devil is in the details: The State of California Finance Department reported the 2021-22 fiscal year of the multi-billion dollar operation of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) will incur the annual cost of \$113,000. per prisoner per year.

On May 11, 2010, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) reported in ELDERLY INMATES IN CALIFORNIA PRISONS, the cost to incarcerate an elderly prisoner is two to three times more than the average prisoner.

Using the LAO's calculus at 2½ times the cost of an average prisoner the cost to incarcerate an elderly prisoner is now \$282,000. per year per elderly prisoner.

In 2017, on recommendation of the judiciary, academia and state legislators, Penal Code 3055 ELDERLY PAROLE was passed.

On October 20, 2020, Court of Appeal of California (in re staich, 2020 cal. app. Lexus 974) assessing CDCR, cites: "Elderly Parole program does not appear to have had practical influence on the parole process."

Confirming the Court of Appeal's observation, Board of Parole Hearings, 2020, REPORT OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, proudly reports on page #7 "Parole Denial percentage." a high of 82% denial of ELDERLY PAROLE hearings.

Dancing to the pleasure of a master other than reason, the Board of Parole has chosen to practice senicide. Many more elderly die in prison than parole.

WE SHOULD CARE BECAUSE ...

It is costing California Taxpayers \$282,000. per elderly prisoner per year to be needlessly punished to death.

To punish a harmless person to death has to take a toll on the societal soul of California, or any other state that practices senicide.

12 September 2022
Robert H. Outman
Prisoner P-79939
<http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/895/>