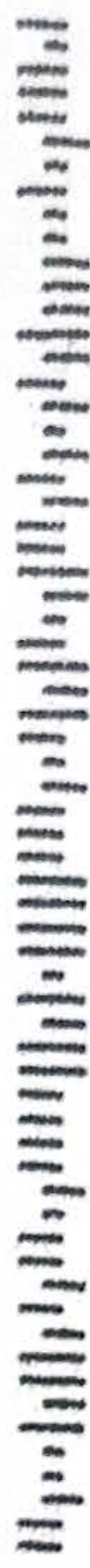


Jose' L. Garcia, #91381
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TO: The R.I. Freedom Collective
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From: Jose' L. Garcia, #91381

Maximum Security

P.O. Box 8273

Craighton, R.I. 02920

Block A1 Cell #06

1-07-25

To: Senator Chairperson Down Ever

State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, R.I. 02903

To: Representative Chairperson Robert E. Crover, Sr.

State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, R.I. 02903

Dear Honorable Speaker, Chairperson Ever
and Chairman Crover,

My name is Jose' L. Garcia, and I'm
writing in strong support of the Senate Bill
and House Bill on the Second Look Act. Which
provides incarcerated individuals to petition the
sentencing Court to consider a Motion to Reduce
after the defendant has served at least ten (10)
years of the sentence, and would provide the

Superior Court with jurisdiction to address
Motion to Modify Sentence under § 8-2-17.

Honorable Speaker Chairperson Evers
and Chairman Crover, I believe that a
incarcerated individual, men and women, who
have committed a grievous crime as kids and
as young emerging adults towards their fellow
human being in their society are truly remorseful
and sorry for what they've done. And are
truly capable of change.

After 20 or 30 plus years of an individual
being incarcerated with a draconian given
sentence, as if they can't never be rehabilitated,
nor change, is far from the truth. Because,
through their maturing and life learning mistakes
as a young individual, we are not the same young
individual that was incarcerated on paper when
we first was sentenced for our crime as kids and
young emerging adults.

I was 18 years old with a codefendant
who was 17 years old in 1993, when we were both
charged for our crime and incarcerated for. In
1995 me and my codefendant had our cases severed.
I went to trial on the criminal charges the state
brought about against me. And was found guilty
by a jury trial on all counts. I was given 60 life

Sentences plus a 10 year sentence. Two of those life sentences is without parole to run concurrent, and the 10 years to run concurrent with the two concurrent life without parole sentence. However, the other 4 life sentences are with parole but consecutive to each other and consecutive to the two concurrent life without parole sentences.

My codefendant on the other hand in 1996 was about to go to trial when his attorney the late John Horderman did everything possible to get him a possible plea deal. He was given a plea deal for the same charges with the same evidence against me, if 6 life sentences running concurrent with parole, plus a 20 year sentence to run consecutive to the parole life sentences.

Now, my family and my codefendants family as well as me and my codefendant ask ourselves and wonder in 1995, 1996 and now in 2024, why did I even receive so much more time than him (codefendant). When we were one year apart, I was 18 years old and he was 17 years old, facing the same charges with the same amount of evidence. Is it because I exercised my right to go to trial?

Even with such a draconian sentence given to me at such a young emerging adult age. And knowing that I may never have a chance to go

home one day and be with my family and with my children again, who now have a family of their own with children, (my grandchildren).

I still got involved in all the positive programs the R.I. Doc could offer me. As well as my codefendant. And he truly believed that even with the plea deal sentence he signed for, that he would NEVER get out on parole eligibility. Yet, that didn't stop him to better himself through the programs.

I also was involved in creating a program within the R.I. Doc Maximum Security Facility called Garden Time in 2010 first it kicked with Chaplain Martina Pears who retired from the R.I. Doc Administration in 2022, and with the former R.I. Doc Director A.V. Walls. The program has been going on for 14 years here at Maximum Security, and has further been implemented across other the R.I. Doc Facilities, Medium Security, Women's Facility, Intake Service Center, and I believe Minimum Security.

I've also have been speaking to young youth in person through a R.I. Doc program called S.C.O.R.E. They come from different parts of the R.I. State School system, Junior High School students and High School students. In

which is teach them how a 30 seconds bad decision they can make in their lives can affect the lives of others and their family, including their own. All because in that very moment they are not thinking of the consequences of their action. And I tell them I am the perfect example of such situation.

I love speaking to the young youth about making right choices in their lives while their maturing. And I hope one day I can continue such a program in speaking to the young youth out in our community.

These bills would address what is lacking on the backend of lengthy sentences. And consider Rehabilitation when it is ripe, sometimes a decade or two after sentencing, for people ineligible for parole like myself and others, and people with sentences stacked to create elongated parole eligibility dates. It doesn't mean your going to release them. It just gives an incarcerated individual and his love ones hope of a second chance at an opportunity after a decade or two of incarceration for a sentencing court with the Superior Court having jurisdiction under § 8-2-17. Hopefully, before a whole new Judge with a fresh set of eyes and mind set in the

matter. Who could decide if the incarcerated individual is worthy of a second chance at society based upon all presented evidence at the hearing.

I believe these bills could provide hope and give incarcerated individuals like myself and others, including, our families, children and grandchildren a sense of hope. Especially, for these incarcerated individuals like myself who were young emerging adult offender when sentenced and incarcerated.

I would like to let you both know that on March of 2020, my co-defendant was released on parole on his life parole sentence together with his consecutive 20 year sentence to the community and his family, after serving 27 years. He's been out free for 4 years. And this New Year 2025, he will have 5 years of being free. And he owns his own Barber Shop business.

There are others who are my friends that I consider as family because of the years and decades we've spent together incarcerated, who have gotten the opportunity to be released back into the community and their family. My best friend's Steven Parkhurst, Kyle Campbell, and Mario Menteiro. And these men are doing very well since given

the opportunity of being released or parole into the community.

They are showing society that the program's rehabilitative tools they've taken while incarcerated for decades have helped them mature and become better individuals that what their past mistakes portray them to be. There is a saying:

"We are all more than the worst thing we've ever done."

"Attorney Bryan Stevenson"

Thank you Honorable Speaker Champersan Evers, and Chairman Craven, for allowing me the opportunity to write to both of you in request of your support in considering to push for these bill's to pass. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jose L. Gai

cc: The R.I. Freedom Collective