



Introduction to FedCURE

The first thought we would like you to consider, if you have not already, is joining and contributing to FedCURE. We are the world's leading experts in matters relating to federal inmates. Collectively, five of FedCURE's 14 board members have over 50 years of in prison experience--behind the fence--as former federal inmates. Each holding J.D.'s, two holding LL.M's and two holding Ph. D's. Our lifetime members include the best criminal attorneys in the United States. You can donate and or join now at: <http://www.fedcure.org/join.shtml>.

On Friday, September 23, 2005 FedCURE Chairman, Kenny Linn, J.D., LL.M., was privileged to take part in an Issues Forum put on by the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington DC.

Rev. Jesse Jackson was the panel's keynote speaker on the subject of criminal justice reform and the room was full for his presentation. Rep. John Conyers and Rep. Bobby Scott hosted the panel and made the introductions. FedCURE's participation was focused on reinstatement of parole and increased good time for federal inmates in general and the passage of Rep. Danny Davis' HR 3072 in particular. We stressed that our numbers show we could save the country \$3.5 billion per year if the old parole guidelines were put back in place. FedCURE hopes to spur the caucus into amalgamating a number of individual bills dealing with criminal justice into one package of bills that all seek a comprehensive reform of what many of us see as a criminal justice system that has gone awry. We will be trying to get all of the sponsors of these bills together to further our goals.

"Martha Stewart's incarceration has made her the DIVA of federal criminal justice reform in the United States." Mrs. Stewart wrote from prison in a December 2004 letter posted on her Web site, "I beseech you all to think about these [inmates] - to encourage the American people to ask for reforms, both in sentencing guidelines, in length of incarceration for nonviolent first-time offenders, and for those involved in drug-taking." The synergies behind that have yet to unfold. However, we can state with confidence that, when all the discussions settle on the table concluding that the federal criminal justice system in the United States is undoubtedly broken and in need of reform; and that after all of the discussion about what's wrong with the system and what can be done to fix it comes to rest, in the end, it always comes down to one important reform issue: To reduce federal prison sentences. In today's political environment, however, there is only one possible hope that would best accomplish this reform: Enact federal legislation to revive our former system of parole for federal prisoners; and to provide new re-entry opportunities for people being released from prison.

To that end, FedCURE is feverishly advocating in favor of H.R. 3072 (former H.R. 4036, as amended) a bill to Revive the System of Parole for Federal Prisoners, that was introduced, in the 109th Congress, by the Honorable U.S. Representative, Danny K. Davis (D) of Illinois on 27 June 2005. Rep's Charles Rangel (D-NY); John Conyers (D-MI); and William Clay (D-MO) have signed on as cosponsors to H.R. 3072.

Parole of federal offenders began after enactment of legislation on June 25, 1910. Under the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the United States Parole Commission retained jurisdiction over defendants who committed their offenses prior to November 1, 1987. At the same time, the Act provided for the abolition of the Parole Commission on November 1, 1992. The phase out of the Commission has been extended by statute several times. The status of the Commission beyond November 1, 2005 remains unresolved despite the Commission having taken over supervision of all DC offenders in addition to the remaining 4,000 Old Law offenders. Presently, the Commission has over 100 employees and a budget of over \$10 million. H.R. 3020, introduced on 22 June 2005, seeks "To extend the existence of the U.S. Parole Commission.

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When the U. S. Sentencing Guidelines were imposed for federal defendants whose criminal activities took place subsequent to November 1, 1987, parole was eliminated. Early release was limited to approximately 47 days of good time each year and the sentences themselves were increased appreciably. The majority of federal inmates are non-violent low-level drug offenders with very long sentences. Moreover, the majority of this segment of the federal inmate population is being incarcerated for the first time. Thousands of people in prison are serving life sentences for non-violent offenses without the possibility of parole. The vast majority of these people are also first time offenders.

Ninety-seven per cent (97%) of all federal inmates are eventually released. 45,000 federal inmates were released last year in the United States. Presently, there are over 187,900 +/- federal detainees. The cost to house these inmates increase exponentially as they age. Total cost to U. S. taxpayers for federal incarceration is upwards of \$7.25 billion yearly. Re-entry of mostly indigent elderly inmates is significantly affecting state budgets. After many years of incarceration, inmates tend to lose all support. Their wives and children abandon them. They lose their ability to find and keep a job because they are banned from most jobs requiring a license and have received no alternative training in prison. There is no money allotted to the federal prison system for rehabilitation programs.

Reinstitution of the old parole and good time laws would reduce the inmate population considerably. Those statues, with minor changes, would reward those inmates who have shown positive institutional behavior with earlier release. Although early release would not be guaranteed, it would allow a second chance to those that prove they deserve that chance. Supervision of all offenders would revert once again to an existing agency with the expertise to determine the appropriate time for return to the community without endangering the public safety.

It has been determined that this plan of parole and increased good time will save U. S. taxpayers upwards of \$2 billion per year by taking mainly non-violent first-offenders out of the prison system earlier and enabling them to become part of the productive mainstream of American life. For additional information, please see FedCURE Talking Points (attached as a word.doc).

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Originally, H.R. 4036 was introduced to the 108th Congress on 25 March 2004, by U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D) of Illinois. It died in committee with the outgoing of the 108th Congress. Since the bill's introduction FedCURE established a two-phase campaign and has been advocating heavily in favor of this legislation. Phase I: Public awareness and fundraising. During the June 2004 FedCURE convention, in Washington, DC, FedCURE's Executive Committee, Rep. Danny Davis and his point persons on legislative affairs, made amendments to H.R. 4036 and the bill was sent to the legislative counsel for rewrite.

Subsequently, FedCURE made further amendments during January and February and finalized the amendment process in March 2005. You all will be very pleased with the new bill, H.R. 3072, as FedCURE got all that it asked for. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D) on 27 June 2005 introduced H.R. 3072, in the 109th Congress. Rep's Rangel, Conyers and Clay have signed on as cosponsors to H.R. 3072.

For details and full text please see:

<http://www.fedcure.org/information/FedCURENews.shtml>.

You will also want to read:

FedCURE's FedCURE Parole Bill Summary:

<http://www.fedcure.org/documents/17102005-FedCURE-SUMMARY-FederalParole-FederalGoodTimeAllowances.pdf>.

FedCURE's Parole Bill Talking Points:

<http://www.fedcure.org/documents/17102005-FedCURE-HR3072-TalkingPoints-ReviveSystemOfParole.pdf>.

The bill will apply to everyone presently in the system whether they are parole eligible or ineligible, old law or new law, violent or non-violent (excluding capital offenses--heinous crimes). *"SEC. 7. RETROSPECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE APPLICATION. This Act and the amendments made by this Act apply to prisoners whose convictions occur before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act." Id.*

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H.R. 3072 includes a second segment that has the old good time statutes for statutory good time (former Title 18 U.S.C Chapters 309, 311) plus a new portion that will add extra good time days for what we are calling "superior program achievement." This means that everyone will be eligible for extra good time whether they excel in reading or not, so long as they do something to deserve it. Additionally, a compassionate release provision has been added that would grant release at age 65 after serving 25 years incarceration without institutional violent and non-aggressive conduct.

We are now gearing up for Phase II of the campaign: FedCURE has mounted a full-scale campaign to the community urging them to contact congressional members to support this legislation. We are requesting our membership and friends to help build our contact database. The more names and e-mail addresses you send in, the larger the contact database and the more potential for support. This is a community effort. Please help! Kindly send all names and addresses off list to: FedCURE@FedCURE.org. We need funds to do this work. You can make regular donations to FedCURE at: <http://www.fedcure.org/join.shtml> and select the "DONATE" button.

Please take a moment to contact the members of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee now and strongly urge them to support H.R. 3072 - A Bill to Revive the System of Parole for Federal Prisoners. In your message, please request that the Committee inform you of their decision. Click on the links below.

Support H.R. 3072 - A Bill to Revive the System of Parole for Federal Prisoners
Go to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee contact page:
<http://judiciary.house.gov/contact.aspx>

Support H.R. 3072 - A Bill to Revive the System of Parole for Federal Prisoners
Go to FedCURE's Action Alert Page:
<http://www.fedcure.org/alerts/07April2004UrgentActionAlertFundraising.shtml>.

Additionally, FedCURE is working on the following bills currently pending in the 109th Congress: H.R. 256, H.R. 662, H.R. 663 and H.R. 1704.

H.R. 256

Title: To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an alternate release date for certain nonviolent offenders, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Jackson-Lee, Sheila [TX-18] (introduced 1/6/2005) Cosponsors (None). Action: 1/6/2005

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Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. Latest Major Action: 3/2/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

H.R.662

Title: To permit expungement of records of certain nonviolent criminal offenses. Sponsor: Rep Rangel, Charles B. [NY-15] (introduced 2/8/2005) Cosponsors (None) Latest Major Action: 2/8/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 663

Title: To secure the Federal voting rights of certain qualified ex-offenders who have served their sentences. Sponsor: Rep Rangel, Charles B. [NY-15] (introduced 2/8/2005) Cosponsors (None) Latest Major Action: 2/8/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.1704

Second Chance Act of 2005. Title: To reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community, to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Portman, Rob [OH-2] (introduced 4/19/2005) Cosponsors (62) Latest Major Action: 5/10/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Bills that died in Committee of the 108th Congress are being reorganized by there sponsors and will be supported by FedCURE when they are reintroduced:

H.R. 3575. A bill to provide an alternate release date for certain nonviolent federal offenders. Status 12/10/03: Referred to Subcommittee. This is a simple bill, but it does nothing for nonviolent offenders serving life sentences. FedCURE seeks to amend this bill to include all nonviolent federal offenders. See: <http://www.fedcure.org/information/HR3575.shtml>. (Now H.R. 256)

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H.R. 4676. Second Chance Act of 2004: Community Safety Through Recidivism Prevention. A bill to reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community, to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Portman, Rob [OH-2] (introduced /23/2004) Cosponsors (18) Latest Major Action: 7/15/2004 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Select Education.

H.R. 5103. Title: To repeal mandatory minimum sentencing for certain Federal crimes and restore justice and fairness to Federal sentencing practices. Sponsor: Rep Waters, Maxine [CA-35] (introduced 9/15/2004) Cosponsors (None) Latest Major Action: 9/15/2004 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

In the meantime, we are encouraging the community to thank U.S. Rep. Danny Davis (D) of Illinois for introducing the parole bill and to contact other house members to support it. However, you should mention that you want to see this legislation apply to all federal offenders. Click here to Contact Congress. <http://www.fedcure.org/ContactCongressREP-SEN.shtml>.

FedCURE has scheduled a Legislative Staff Briefing in DC: Room #2105, Rayburn Building, on 28 October 2005 at 12:00 noon. FedCURE will host a luncheon and seminar for legislative staff. We hope to draw about fifty to one-hundred (50-100) Congressional legislative staff to this seminar (which will be by invitation only), so that we can brief them on H.R. 3072. They will take our materials and arguments back with them to their Congresspersons.

Also FedCURE has an appointment with BOP Director Harley Lappin in Washington DC on Thursday, 27 October 2005 (this is FedCURE's second meeting with the Director) . We expect that there will be a full complement of staff at that meeting and we have requested that a couple we deal with regularly from Central Office be present. Some of the issues to be raised are:

a) Ion Spectrometers, b) Proposed new Inmate Discipline policy statement, c) Medical Issues (including speeding up of compassionate release processing for terminal patients), d) Visitor processing, e) BOP policies in private prisons, and f) FedCURE's Re-Entry Pilot Program. E-mail your comments to: FedCURE@FedCURE.org.

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Lastly, those of us from the Board of Directors of FedCURE who will be present in Washington DC during this time period for these meetings will also be trying to arrange appointments with our own Congressperson to spread the word about H.R. 3072 and FedCURE's mission.

We don't like asking and we don't like bugging you, but we cannot finance this project ourselves. We implore you to please take a moment to support this FedCURE initiative now! You can make financial contributions to FedCURE in two easy and convenient ways:

1. Via PayPal.com, or by clicking the following link to go to our PayPal page: Donate \$ Join Now! (<http://www.fedcure.org/join.shtml>). Once on the page please choose the "JOIN" tab if you are not a member or to renew your annual membership. Or just choose the "Donate" tab to contribute.

2. Via check or money order to:

FedCURE, P.O. Box 15667, Plantation, Florida 33318-5667

For any other type philanthropy, please e-mail us at:

Membership@FedCURE.org.

For more information on H.R. 3072 see below and to act now, please go to:

[Urgent Action Alert](#)
[FEDERAL PAROLE BILL](#)
[H.R. 3072 - "A bill to revive the system of parole for Federal prisoners."](#)
[\[Please click here to go to Alert\]](#)

<http://www.fedcure.org/alerts/07April2004UrgentActionAlertFundraising.shtml>

Before H.R. 3072 (or any other new bill) becomes law, it must go through a 13 step process, which can be expeditious or pains staking laborious. A bill can die anywhere in the process for a host of reasons. To be sure, FedCURE means to see this legislation become law and is in the fight for the long hall. Any and all major developments will be published to our web site and posted on our free FedCURE-org Yahoo discussion group. Subscribe by e-mail to: FedCURE-org-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. There, you can interact with over fourteen hundred subscribers, or just read the posts.

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FedCURE does not send copies of legislation and newsletters via snail mail. The newsletters and FedCURE News Updates, as well as other information, can be downloaded and printed at: <http://www.fedcure.org/newsletter.shtml>. Also please visit our pages at: <http://www.fedcure.org/information.shtml> and <http://www.fedcure.org/actionalert.shtml>.

FedCURE has been approved, by the BOP, to send newsletters and news updates to the inmate law libraries at each federal institution for posting to the inmate population.

In closing: Are you using the Govern Mail program?

If you are not a user of the free Govern Mail program, you are not up-to-date on your lobbying technology. With this program you can become your own e-lobbyist. GovernMail links you to government officials and government information from around the world. You can view representative home pages or email Senate and House members from GovernMail's complete listings. Please go to: <http://www.governmail.com>, scroll to bottom of page, for a free download of this valuable resource. Or use the link below:

Download GovernMail 1.22 (0.9 MB):

Download Sites:

US - All gvml122.exe <http://www.governmail.com>.

After downloading gvml122.exe, double-click on the file's icon to begin installation. Minimum Requirements: -Internet Explorer 3.0 or higher
-486 Processor / 16MB RAM -SVGA video card (16 bit or higher resolution recommended)

Also, snail mail labels for the House of Representatives, in word.doc format, are available here: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>.

Please urge others to do the same and to support FedCURE; and also to send us e-mail addresses for our contact database to: FedCURE@FedCURE.org.

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Kindly distribute and post widely.

Looking forward to your support and to having you as a member.

Best Regards:

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