Petition for Relief from Drug War Injustice

In the mid 1980s Congress abolished parole and passed harsh drug sentencing laws. Many states followed, creating a ten-fold increase in the number of drug offenders incarcerated. We have lost cherished legal traditions and endured many other unintended consequences due to a destructive anti-drug policy.

It is illogical to spend tax dollars on long imprisonment when other means have proven far more effective in addressing the social problems of drug abuse and addiction. State leaders across the U.S. are reforming rigid sentencing guidelines, drug and parole policies. We urge federal leaders to do the same: Provide prisoners with an incentive to maintain exemplary behavior in prison and earn early release.

Earned, early release would foster incentives toward cooperation, study, and learning skills that would create a safer environment for staff and prisoners alike. Families could be reunited earlier, with better prospects for successful reentry into society. High costs of incarcerating drug offenders -- $9.4 billion annually -- would be dramatically reduced. Inhumane prison overcrowding would be relieved -- the federal system is 31% over capacity, and growing more than 9% annually.

We, the undersigned, support the November Coalition's demand for relief from drug war injustice through a revival of federal parole and/or a dramatic increase in "good-time" eligibility of prisoners in federal custody.

Print Name	Email	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone (optional)

The November Coalition
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We will send regular reports of support to the US Federal Leaders, US Sentencing Commission, and media throughout 2003. ***Please return signed petitions to:***

The November Coalition • 795 South Cedar • Colville, WA 99114