

Suggested Subject Line: Proposed Priorities for 2019

Dear Judge Pryor:

I have a loved one in federal prison. I am writing to let you know what I think about the priorities you are proposing.

First, I am happy to learn that the U.S. Sentencing Commission might study how the Family Ties and Responsibilities policy statement works when incarcerating a parent means that minor children lose the parent's care or financial support. I hope you will conduct this study. Families like mine suffer emotionally and financially when a loved one is behind bars.

[If you have a personal story to share you could do that here].

Second, I also support the proposal to study whether the Bureau of Prisons is following the Commission's encouragement to file a motion for compassionate release whenever "extraordinary and compelling reasons" exist. I think it may not be doing so.

[If you have a personal story to share you could do that here].

Your study could shine a light on how BOP is failing elderly, sick, and dying prisoners and help achieve the changes you have promoted.

Finally, I want you to know I was disappointed to learn that the Commission will not consider whether to amend the guidelines to reduce sentences for first offenders. Treating them the same as defendants with criminal history strikes me as wrong. I thought the Commission was on the right track last year when it proposed a first offender sentence reduction, and I hope you will consider that idea again soon.

[If you have a personal story to share you could do that here].

Thank you for your work and for considering my opinion.