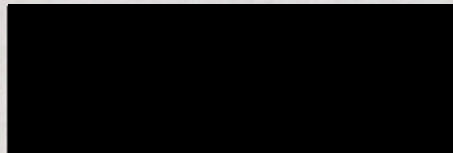


One has to wonder how long a community would finance the schools to keep students additional years because a basic graduation requirement was not provided. Can you imagine how insurance companies would react to paying for hospital care that is only needed because the hospital didn't have a basic treatment provided for a patient who could go home? It occurs to me that either of the above situations would result in an out-cry with legal action and an organized protest. Yet we stand by quietly and write the checks for the corrections systems to continue to house offenders who have not been provided their required treatment programs we allow. Our legislators to support a budget which fosters such gross wastes of funds. We vote for legislators who appropriate this travesty through their law-and-order stand, while never challenging their lack of commitment to a better way we grant our criminal justice and corrections systems an open check books and praise them when they raise our taxes and spend more money. We need court watchers to monitor the abuses by judges. Accountability in the courts and in corrections. Nothing to enhance our education and to support programs like "Head Start," which have proven successful record. They advocate spending more on prison construction which is not necessary. We should all stand firm to see that not one single brick is put to new prison and jail construction and that the tax dollars is used for education and support programs like "Head Start". In most states the cost of one year incarceration is greater than the cost of one year of a teacher's salary? In most states, those elected to legislature do not have an understanding of the excessive cost and misuse of tax dollars in corrections systems? Judges are never asked to justify the sentence they give with evidence of the effectiveness, the need and/or the cost? The Federal Bureau of Investigation from 16,000 law enforcement agencies around the country, 7.9 percent of rape complaints filed with police were determined to be unfounded. But there are inmates in prison for crimes that they did not do. There are about 24,400 people in Pennsylvania prisons. Pennsylvania is one of the few states in the United States that does not have some form of earned good time. Something has to be done about the over crowding of the prisons. Maybe finally, with prisons so over crowded for nearly a decade, it is time to ask the hard question about why we rely on imprisonment as virtually the only way to deal with the crime. Such reliance usually does not serve justice and almost always results in unsatisfactory treatment of the actual victim.

If we worried more about restoring the victims than the injured dignity of the states, we would find that justice requires less jail and more restitution. Mr. (X) has served five (5) years at a cost of \$150,000.00. He has received no treatment and the inmate will receive no treatment until the inmate is within two (2) years of his first parole hearing date. We spend \$90,000.00 more to incarcerate the inmate. Society will have spent in excess of \$240,000.00 to punish an inmate who has accepted full responsibility for his behavior, done all he could to make amends and victims that did not wish incarceration. The lame excuse of given for such incarceration is that the inmate owes a debt to society, while society will be the one to pay that debt in excess of the \$240,000.00 to see that the inmate pays his debt to society. The victim of the crime has benefited in no way from this excessive and costly incarceration. No one has benefited from this excessiveness in spending except those in the courts and legal systems and corrections systems.

Respectfully yours,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.