



American Probation and Parole Association

A Force for Positive
CHANGE.

c/o The Council of State Governments • P.O. Box 11910 • Lexington, KY, 40578-1910 • Ph. (859) 244-8203 • Fax (859) 244-8001 • E-mail: appa@csg.org

PRESIDENT

Barbara Broderick
Arizona

March 23, 2010

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Scott Taylor
Oregon

Senator Robert Stivers
702 Capitol Ave
Annex Room 242
Frankfort KY 40601

Dear Senator Stivers:

VICE-PRESIDENT

Carmen Rodriguez
Illinois

Based in Lexington, KY, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) is an international non-profit composed of members from the United States, Canada and other countries who work in probation, parole and community-based corrections. Our members supervise more than 5 million adults across the country and more than 38,000 people within our state. I write to encourage you to support House Bill No. 70 (HB 70), which has passed out of the House and is now before the Senate. This bill would place before the voters of the state a constitutional amendment to restore voting rights to people who have fully completed their sentences and paid their debt to society, excepting those convicted of murder and certain sex crimes who would still be required to seek an executive pardon to restore their rights.

PAST-PRESIDENT

Gary Hinzman
Iowa

I know that reducing recidivism rates of people with criminal records is important to you. It is important to recognize that the right to vote is integral to successful rehabilitation and reintegration. I urge you, as Senate Majority Floor Leader, to lend your full support to HB 70 and shepherd it through the Senate.

SECRETARY

Susan Burke
Utah

TREASURER

Bruce VanderSanden
Iowa

With 35 years of experience in the criminal and juvenile justice field, I strongly believe that full civic participation by citizens living in our community protects public safety. There is no credible evidence that continuing to disenfranchise people after they have returned to the community serves any legitimate law enforcement purpose. To the contrary, restoring the right to vote sends the message that ex-offenders are welcome as integral members of their home communities and invests them in our democracy. Bringing people into the political process makes them stakeholders in their communities and encourages them to lead law-abiding lives, thereby decreasing recidivism.

**AT-LARGE AFFILIATE
REPRESENTATIVE**

Carl Fox
Arizona

**AT-LARGE REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES**

William Ashe
Washington, D.C.

Erika Preuitt

Oregon

In 2007, APPA passed a resolution endorsing voting rights restoration after release from prison. I have attached a copy of the resolution for your reference. Other criminal justice and law enforcement agencies, including the

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carl Wicklund

American Correctional Association, the National Black Police Association and the Association of Paroling Authorities International, have passed similar resolutions. I have also attached a copy of an op-ed I published two years ago in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* urging the Kentucky Legislature to restore voting rights to people who have paid their debt to society.

As someone who shares your interest in the successful reentry of people after prison, I urge you to lend your full support to HB 70. Kentucky has an historic opportunity to join the national movement to restore voting rights to people who have completed their sentences. In the interest of protecting public safety and promoting American democracy, I hope you will help Kentucky seize that opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carl Wicklund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carl" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Wicklund".

Carl Wicklund
Executive Director