



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

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Carl Wicklund

May 12, 2011

Nevada Senate
Carson City, Nevada

Dear Members of the Nevada Senate:

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) is an international non-profit membership association consisting of membership from the United States, Canada, and other countries who work in probation, parole, and community-based corrections. Our members supervise more than five million adults across the country. I write to encourage you to vote for Assembly Bill (A.B.) 301 when it comes before you this month. The bill would simplify Nevada's disenfranchisement laws, and restore voting rights to any individual who has successfully completed a felony sentence of incarceration, probation, or parole.

With over 38 years of experience in the criminal and juvenile justice fields, 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 paid their debt to society 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 helps invest them in our democracy. Bringing people into the political process invites them to be stakeholders in their communities and encourages them to lead law-abiding lives, thereby reducing recidivism.

In 2007, the APPA passed a resolution endorsing voting rights restoration after release from prison. I am attaching a copy of that resolution for your reference. Other criminal justice and law enforcement agencies, including the National Black Police Association and the Association of Paroling Authorities International, have passed similar resolutions.

As someone who shares your interest in the successful reentry of people after prison, I urge you to lend your full support to A.B. 301. Nevada has an historic opportunity to join the national movement to restore voting rights to people who are returning back to the community. In the interest of protecting Nevada's public safety and promoting American democracy, I hope you will help Nevada seize this opportunity. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Wicklund
Executive Director

Resolution



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Restoration of Voting Rights

Enacted: Sep 2007

WHEREAS, many citizens who have been convicted of felonies and have completed their sentences, including community supervision, do not have the right to vote;

WHEREAS, many states have some restrictions on voting privileges for felons;

WHEREAS, the loss of the right to vote is not based on a need to protect the integrity of the electoral process and the justice system;

WHEREAS, disenfranchisement of felons is disproportionately affecting an increasingly large segment of the population and their families;

WHEREAS, disenfranchisement laws work against the successful reentry of offenders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Probation and Parole Association advocates the restoration of voting rights upon completion of an offender's prison sentence and advocates no loss of voting rights while on community supervision.