



Societal Re-entry

Ethical Cornerstones

- C A society must be protected from those who would endanger its citizens.
- C *The challenge is to incapacitate offenders in a manner that limits violence, and holds open the possibility of conversion and restoration.* (ELCA Statement on the Death Penalty)
- C Most serving time will eventually be released and it makes for safer communities if
 - C the corrections system offers opportunities for learning new skills
 - C roadblocks to successful transition are removed.

Educational Discrimination

Background

- C Higher education is statistically related to low recidivism.
- C One NY community college won't accept applications from persons with felony convictions unless they live in that county.

What Will Help

- C Restore eligibility for the NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and other public resources to inmates.
- C Make it illegal for an institution of higher education to discriminate against those with a criminal conviction.



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Medicaid Delay

Background

- C Prisons are not required to file Medicaid applications for incarcerated persons who are not permitted to file on their own.
- C Medicaid applications take 90 days to process while those released only receive a 2 week supply of medication.
 - C many use emergency rooms
 - C some self-medicate to minimize pain
 - C serious mental health disabilities and severe physical pain go untreated.

What Will Help

Application for Medicaid be filed 90 days before release.

Problems with Registration/Voting

Background

By law, a NY resident

- C can't vote while incarcerated or on parole
- C can vote while on probation, even if convicted of a felony
- C regains the right to vote following a felony conviction after serving the maximum time sentenced or upon discharge from parole, whichever is first.

Local boards of election, not familiar with the law, bar them from registering and voting.

What Will Help

Enact the "New York Voting Rights Notification and Registration Act." so legal voting rights are respected.

(3/07)

Member Denominations

American Baptist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Empire Baptist Missionary Convention, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friends, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church.

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