

# Winter 2018 highlights

**Annual Meeting**

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**Parole Grant Rates**

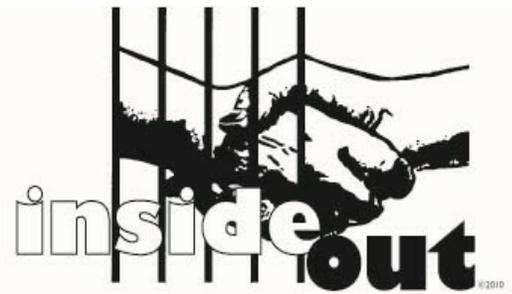
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## Directors Corner

A brief reminder: **HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?** January is the month when we renew membership. Many forget, so we ask "When was the last time you renewed your membership? Fill in the membership form on the back of this newsletter and send us your contribution. Help VACURE advocate for our prisoners! Thanks to all who have renewed. We appreciate your help!

## Virginia CURE 2018 Annual Meeting

Virginia CURE held its Annual Meeting in Richmond on November 18 featuring a theme entitled "Addressing the Challenges of Mental Health in Virginia's Prisons." Speakers included Tom Petersik, CURE member, who described his efforts to convince Amazon to hire ex felons in its new Richmond warehouse this year (don't apply, they wouldn't change their hiring practices at least not yet!) and James Bailey who chaired our legislative committee and spoke of an expungement bill he had authored. Other speakers were Kimberly Jenkins Snodgrass, Board member of Interfaith Action for Human Rights and mother of a prisoner who experienced long term solitary confinement, and Rhonda Thiessen, Director of the National Alliance on Mental Health, who titled her talk "A Revolving Door: Mental Health Behind Bars". The Department of Corrections was represented by Rick Feldman, Regional Clinician for the VADOC who spoke on "The Role of Mental Health Services in Reducing Recidivism" and Tori Raiford, Statewide Restrictive Housing Coordinator, who spoke on "The Evolution of Change and Restrictive Housing". In addition we screened two films; part of the Red Onion Documentary, "Solitary", made for HBO and a documentary made by VADOC that focused on DOC programs addressing mental health issues in the prisons. Finally, we welcomed a special speaker Adrienne Bennett, the Virginia Parole Board Chairman, whose talk was warmly received. All of the speakers were excellent and stimulated much discussion and many questions, in fact, the meeting ran overtime.

## Mental Health in Prisons

Rhonda Thiessen, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) addressed the main topic of the meeting; mental health in prisons. People with mental illness and addictions, we were informed, are over represented in the criminal justice system. The Urban Institute estimates that 56% of state prisoners, 45% of federal prisoners, and 64% of jail inmates have a mental health disorder. In 2016, Virginia jails reported that 17% of jail inmates had a mental illness, including 26% of female inmates and 14% of male inmates. Often these conditions lead to self medication through drug abuse. Incarceration exacerbates mental health problems. Prisoners with mental illness may commit more rule infractions and spend more time in segregation where their conditions often worsen due to prolonged isolation. A significant number of prison suicides are committed by people suffering in solitary confinement. Ms. Thiessen finished her talk by describing outside resource for those with mental health issues. She directed people to local Community Services Boards, Community Health Centers and local support groups through NAMI Virginia affiliates.

The VDOC presented a film and two speakers with information about programs now being run to treat those with mental illness. Ric Feldman, spoke about efforts to provide treatment to all those who needed it and of the hiring of a number of new clinicians allowing him to provide more timely and better treatment for the mentally ill. Tori Raiford introduced the documentary provided by the VDOC that covered programs created by the DOC that were not covered in the HBO film, such as the creation of a special category of officers who were trained to work with mentally ill persons.

## The Virginia Parole Board

Ms. Bennett began her presentation by reviewing the responsibilities of the parole board.- which she described as managing Regular parole, Geriatric release, Three Strike Parole Appeals, Pardons and Clemencies, Parole and Post-Release Revocations and Youthful Offenders. After describing each of these responsibilities in more detail, she informed us that:

Among the 3,491 Parole Eligible (PE) offenders confined on October 31, 2017, 1,087 (31%) were serving one or more life sentences.

Among the 2,404 Parole Eligible offenders not serving a life sentence confined on October 31, 2017:

- 892 (37%) were serving a sentence of at least 25 years but fewer than 50 years
- 826 (34%) were serving a sentence of at least 50 years but fewer than 100 years

- 198 (8%) were serving a sentence of at least 100 years
- 98 % of the Current PE Confined Population Have Already Served 20+ Years (as of 10/31/17)
- 4% of the SR (Sex Offender Registry) Confined Population will be eligible for Geriatric Release consideration by the end of FY 2018 and more than one-quarter of the SR confined population (29%) either are or will become geriatric conditional release eligible during the course of their incarceration

Ms. Bennett expressed concern at the looming crisis that will soon occur due to the large numbers of prisoners who will be eligible for geriatric release. VACURE members came away from this meeting feeling that the new process will be more objective and fair than in the past and that the new Parole Board will see an increase in the numbers of grants.

### Parole Grant Rates July-December 2018

	Grant			Grant		
	Reg parole	Out of	Percent	Geriatric	Out of	Percent
July	33	332	10%	5	53	9%
August	31	217	14%	4	45	9%
September	7	264	03%	0	68	0%
October	0	185	0%	0	60	0%
November	35	201	16%	6	53	17%
December	69	218	31%	10	28	35%

### •Virginia CURE Bills of Interest 2018

February 8, 2018

#### GRAND LARCENY:

•**SB105** [David R. Suetterlein](#) | [all patrons](#) **Grand larceny; threshold. Increases from \$200 to \$500** the threshold amount of money taken or value of goods or chattel taken at which the crime rises from petit larceny to grand larceny. The bill increases the threshold by the same amount for the classification of certain property crimes. (This bill incorporates SB 21, SB 102, SB 138, SB 157, SB 220, SB 221, and SB 472. **01/25/18 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (3-Y 1-N)**

•**HB 113** [Jennifer Carroll Foy-t](#) | **Grand larceny; threshold. Increases from \$200 to \$1,000** , (HB 225: C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr. | Grand larceny; threshold. Increases from \$200 to \$750 , HB 280) [Christopher E. Collins](#) | Grand larceny; first offender; sentence reduction. at least \$200 and less than \$1,000 may be placed on probation. grand larceny. **11/20/17 House: Referred to Committee on Rules**

#### PAROLE

•**★SB 93 Parole, eligibility for; at liberty between offenses. (3 Strikes)** [Scott A. Surovell](#) | . Provides that a person convicted of three separate felony offenses of murder, rape, or robbery by the presenting of firearms or other deadly weapon, or any combination of such offenses, shall be eligible for parole unless that person was at liberty between the three convictions .... **01/19/18 Senate: Continued to 2019 in Rehabilitation and Social Services (14-Y 0-N)**

• **★SB 100 New sentencing hearing; abolition of parole. (Fishback):** [Jennifer L. McClellan](#) | [all patrons](#) Provides that a person who was sentenced by a jury prior to the date of the Supreme Court of Virginia decision in [Fishback v. Commonwealth](#), 260 Va. 104 (June 9, 2000), in which the Court held that a jury should be instructed on the abolition of parole, for a nonviolent felony committed after the time that the abolition of parole went into effect (January 1, 1995), is entitled to a new sentencing proceeding if such person is still incarcerated.. **01/24/18 Senate: Read third time and defeated by Senate (19-Y 20-N)**

•**★HB 1314 Parole; exception to limitation on the application of parole statutes.:** [Joseph C. Lindsey](#) | [all patrons](#) . Provides that a person is entitled to parole who was sentenced by a jury prior to the date of the Supreme Court of Virginia decision in [Fishback v. Commonwealth](#), 260 Va. 104 (June 9, 2000), in which the Court held that a jury should be instructed on the fact that parole has been abolished, for a noncapital felony committed prior to the time that the abolition of parole went into effect (January 1, 1995). **01/19/18 House: Subcommittee recommends passing by indefinitely (6-Y 2-N)**

•**HB 126.:** **Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission; status of parole-eligible inmates** [Jennifer Carroll Foy-](#) | . Directs the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to review the status of all offenders who are housed in state facilities operated by the Department of Corrections and who are subject to consideration for parole. The bill directs the commission to determine the number of such offenders who have already served, or who within the next six years will have served, an amount of time in prison equal to or more than the amount of time for which they would have been sentenced for the same offense under the current sentencing guidelines. **01/16/18 House: Assigned Courts sub: committee #1**

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•**HB 444 Parole Board; personal interviews of prisoners eligible for parole.** [Jennifer Carroll Foy](#) | Requires that at least two members of the Parole Board personally interview any prisoner eligible for parole who has served at least 20 years of his sentence and has no record of institutional violations within the five years immediately preceding the Board's review. **02/01/18 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations**

•**HB 1243 Parole Board; parole review, sentencing guidelines.**: [Mark D. Sickles](#) | Requires the Parole Board to base its parole decision for any person eligible and under consideration for and seeking parole for whom the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission has determined, or who otherwise demonstrates, that his time served has exceeded the midpoint of the sentencing guidelines solely on relevant post-sentencing information, including the person's history, character, and conduct while in prison. **02/01/18 House: Subcommittee failed to recommend reporting (3-Y 3-N)**

**JUVENILES**

•**SB 96 Juvenile offenders; Juvenile sentencing factors; geriatric release of juvenile offenders.**: [David W. Marsden](#) | [all patrons](#) . Provides that for any juvenile felony a circuit court shall consider a juvenile's diminished culpability and heightened capacity for change in determining the particular sentence to be imposed. **01/29/18 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice**

**TANF**

•**SB 203 Food stamp eligibility; drug-related felonies.** [Barbara A. Favola](#) | [all patrons](#) . Provides that a person who is otherwise eligible to receive food stamp benefits shall not be denied such assistance solely because he has been convicted of a first-time felony offense of possession with intent to distribute more than one-half ounce but not more than five pounds of marijuana, provided that he complies with all obligations imposed by the criminal court and the Department of Social Services...**01/31/18 Senate: Failed to report (defeated) in Finance (7-Y 8-N)**

**SB 204 Eligibility for TANF; drug-related felonies.**: [Barbara A. Favola](#) | . Provides that a person who is otherwise eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) shall not be denied assistance solely because he has been convicted of a first-time felony offense of possession of a controlled substance, provided that he complies with all obligations imposed by the court and the Department of Social Services,,,. **001/31/18 Senate: Failed to report (defeated) in Finance (7-Y 8-N)**

•**★HB 795 Isolated confinement in prisons prohibited; exceptions.**: [Patrick A. Hope](#) | [all patrons](#) ... . Prohibits placing an inmate who is a member of a vulnerable population, defined in the bill, in isolated confinement, also defined in the bill, or placing any inmate in isolated confinement for more than 15 consecutive days or 20 days in a 60-day period, unless (i) there is a facility-wide lockdown, (ii) isolated confinement is necessary because of a risk of harm to the inmate or others, (iii) the inmate is placed in medical isolation, or (iv) the inmate is placed in voluntary use of isolated confinement **01/25/18 sponsor struck from docket by sponsor**

**VISITATION**

•**★HB 797 Electronic visitation; state correctional facilities.**: [Patrick A. Hope](#) | . Authorizes the Director of the Department of Corrections to prescribe reasonable rules regarding electronic visitation systems and the collection of fees for the use of such systems. The bill requires that the fee be established at the lowest available rate and provides that any facility that uses such a system shall not prohibit in-person visitation. **02/02/18 House: Reported from Militia, Police and Public Safety with amendments (21-Y 0-N)**

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Bob Bohall, CURE volunteer, dies at 82.**

Bob strongly believed in social action and justice, served on the VACURE Board and was the keeper of the parole grant rate statistics for us. He was a member of our Northern Virginia Chapter and faithfully attended meetings. He testified at hearings for us and was especially interested in the legalization of marijuana. Raised on a farm in upstate New York, Bob earned a doctorate in economics and worked in the Economic Research Service with the US Department of Agriculture for many years, publishing many studies and testifying before Congress. In retirement he attended and taught classes at the LRI/Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University, serving as a board member and as president. Our condolences go to his wife of 57 years, Jan, three sons and eight grandchildren. We will miss his quiet and modest presence and are grateful that he shared himself with us for a time. A Memorial Service will be held at the Fairfax Unitarian Church on February 10th.

### **Understaffing a major problem at Hampton Roads Regional Jail**

The on going investigation of deaths at the Hampton Roads Regional Jail has revealed that a major cause for the deaths is understaffing. Generally, there is only one officer responsible for 100 prisoners, jail authorities state. The 1100 bed facility houses more inmates than any other jail and more mentally ill than any other jail or hospital in the Commonwealth. The jail is 39 percent over capacity, and about half the inmates are mentally ill, according to a November staffing study by the state Department of Corrections and state Compensation Board. The study concluded that 13 more mental health positions would have to be added to address the issue of the mentally ill. Jail superintendents and Sheriffs have long complained that jails are not hospitals and are not geared to deal with mental illness. A prescreening process allows the jail to send prisoners to a state mental health facility but these, too, are overcrowded with a shortage of beds.

Another issue is the loss of experienced officers who burn out in the environment and seek less stressful positions.

Jail superintendent, Renald Meyers stated that the jail needed more funding to cover the staff shortages. Budget amendment bills moving through both the Virginia House and Senate would send about \$5 million to the jail, enough to add 31 permanent positions and 50 temporary ones. Myers stated that... Understaffing has actually proven to be more costly for the jail in the long run. "Now we're having mandatory overtime to the tune of \$1.6 million extra that we didn't budget for this year," Myers said. The jail is mandated to take prisoners from 5 Tidewater cities, which has led to overcrowding making matters worse.

### **Shrinking gap between number of blacks and whites in prison nationwide**

According to a recent report by the Pew Research Center, there has been a significant decline in the number of black prisoners in recent years. The gap is now half as wide as it was in 2009, when America's prison population peaked, according to new data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The decline in the black-white gap between 2009 and 2016 was driven by a 17% decrease in the number of black inmates during that span, which outpaced a 10% decrease in the number of white inmates. There was also a shrinking gap between white and Hispanic prisoners, due mainly to a decrease in white prisoners vs Hispanics. The report notes that "Overall, there were 1,458,173 sentenced prisoners in the U.S. at the end of 2016, or about 6% fewer than the 1,553,574 at the end of 2009.... In 2016, blacks represented 12% of the U.S. adult population but 33% of the sentenced prison population. Whites accounted for 64% of adults but 30% of prisoners. And while Hispanics represented 16% of the adult population, they accounted for 23% of inmates.

The report also notes that the rate at which these ethnic groups are imprisoned has also changed. "In 2016, there were 1,608 black prisoners for every 100,000 black adults – more than five times the imprisonment rate for whites (274 per 100,000) and nearly double the rate for Hispanics (856 per 100,000)." However, the rates of imprisonment have also declined; 25% among blacks, 11% among whites and 19% among Hispanics.

Attempts to explain the shrinking suggest more employment opportunities, more community policing, the use of tools such as best practices and restorative justice and more training of police to deal with issues like domestic disputes. Many prison systems are now creating programs to prepare prisoners for release. The role of mental health as a driver of crime has been recognized and states are establishing drug courts and mental health courts. The school to prison pipeline has been recognized and is now being addressed in many places. Even improving air quality with the removal of lead from gasoline may be a factor. We should also not ignore the aging of the population.

Whatever the causes, crime continues to go down, and people have begun to recognize that racial profiling has led to a great injustice that hopefully is finally being corrected. A major problem, however, will be funding! All new admirable programs come with a cost and that will be what advocates for justice will have to address if improvements are to be made!.

### **Financing Drug Treatment Courts in Virginia**

. With passage of the Drug Treatment Court Act, the 2004 General Assembly recognized that there is a critical need in the Commonwealth for effective treatment programs that reduce the incidence of drug use, drug addiction, family separation due to parental substance abuse, and drug-related crimes. Several local drug treatment courts were operating in Virginia before 2004 and additional drug treatment courts have been approved to operate. Judges involved in drug treatment courts, along with state and local criminal justice agency heads and local government officials, continue to strongly support the continuation and expansion of drug treatment courts. As of 2016, thirty nine drug treatment court programs were operating in the Commonwealth; some of these were supported by a combination of local funds and state general funds administered through the Supreme Court of Virginia. The remaining programs operate without state funds; several draw upon local funds, augmented in a few situations by federal grant funds and other resources. The remaining programs, which are DUI Drug Treatment Court programs operated by the local Alcohol Safety Action Program, use offender fees. (This article taken from Virginias Judicial Systems web site)

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**Reports****Prison Policy Initiative Briefing Sheets**

This bulleted list for those of us who advocate for change provides summaries of the problems, suggested solutions and examples of legislation. Here are only a few of these summaries edited for size. Please request the full list if you are interested..

**Ending prison gerrymandering**

**Problem:** Prisoners counted where they are incarcerated

**Solution:** legislation to count incarcerated people at home for redistricting purposes,

**Model bill:** <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/models/example.html> More information: Prison Gerrymandering Project website <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org>

**Protecting in-person family visits from the video calling industry**

**Problem:** Video calling is quietly replacing contact visits

**Solution:** Follow the lead of Texas and California, both of which have passed legislation requiring jails to provide in-person visits.

**Example Bill:** Texas' HB 549 (2015) clarifies that Texas jails must provide a minimum of two in-person visits — not video calls — per week

**Requiring racial impact statements for criminal justice bills**

**Problem:** Some criminal justice bills unnecessarily and unintentionally exacerbate racial and ethnic disparities in arrest, sentencing, and incarceration rates.

**Solution:** Connecticut, Iowa, and Oregon have passed legislation to provide for racial impact statements that evaluate if proposed criminal justice legislation is likely to have a racially or ethnically disparate impact.

**Example bills:** Iowa House File 2393 (2008), Connecticut Public Act 08-143 (2008), Oregon Senate Bill 463 B (2013)

**Repealing “Truth in Sentencing”**

**Problem:** Many states increased prison capacity in the 1990s when the federal government created a short-lived financial incentive to enact so-called “Truth in Sentencing” laws that unnecessarily increased time spent in prison. Now that the federal subsidy is over, there are many financial benefits — and no financial downsides — to repealing these changes and bringing back the full range of administrative options to manage prison populations

**Solution:** States can choose to repeal their dramatic “Truth In Sentencing” requirements that limit management tools such as good time credits and parole. These changes would save taxpayer resources by downsizing prison populations.

**Creating a Safety Valve for Mandatory Minimum Sentences**

**Problem:** Mandatory minimum sentences have fueled the country’s skyrocketing incarceration rates without significant increases to public safety.

**Solution:** Repeal mandatory minimum, but where that option is not possible — either because of political or legislative realities — states should adopt sentencing “safety valve” laws, which give judges the ability to deviate from the mandatory minimum under specified circumstances **Safety Valve Act**” <http://famm.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/ALEC-Justice-Safety-Valve-Act-8-5-13.pdf>

**Reducing pretrial detention**

**Problem:** Many people who face criminal charges are unnecessarily detained before trial

**Solutions:** States are addressing this problem with a variety of approaches, including bail reform, ending money bail, pretrial services including monitoring and curfews, drug testing and treatment, and postcard or phone reminders to appear in court.

ensure that judges are holding indigency hearings before imposing and enforcing unaffordable fees. • Reclassify criminal offenses and turn misdemeanor charges that don’t threaten public safety into non-jailable infractions. • Make citations, rather than arrest, the default action for certain low-level crimes.

**A Note About Letters to Virginia CURE**

While Virginia CURE cares about your concerns and appreciates being kept informed, we don’t have a volunteer staff large enough to reply promptly to all letters received. Please, keep it short and to the point. **Do not send legal papers.** We do not have the capacity to deal with legal issues. Send mail to **P.O. Box 2310, Vienna, VA 22183**

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## Reports

### Why State Officials Should Fight Jail Growth

One out of every three people behind bars is being held in a local jail, yet jails get almost none of the attention that prisons do. Jails are *ostensibly* locally controlled, but the people held there are generally accused of violating state law, and all too often state policymakers (and state reform advocates) ignore jails. In terms of raw numbers state prison reform is the larger prize, but embracing the myth that jails are only a local matter undermines current and future state-level reforms. Jails may be locally controlled, but jail practices reflect state priorities and change state-wide outcomes.

The *11 million* people who go to jail each year are there generally for brief, but life-altering, periods of time. Most are released in days or hours after their arrest, but others are held for months or more, often because they are **too poor to make bail**. Only about a third of the 720,000 people in jails on a given day have been convicted and are serving short sentences, typically under a year and most often for misdemeanors. Jail policy is therefore in large part about how people — who are legally innocent, until proven guilty — are treated and about how policymakers think our criminal justice system should respond to low-level offenses. As this report will explain, jails impact our entire criminal justice system and millions of lives every year.

Joshua Aiken, Prison Policy Institute

### The Second Chance Act- Recent grants:

#### Second Chance Act Innovations in Reentry Initiative

This grant program provides funding for state and local government agencies and federally recognized tribal governments to plan and implement effective reentry strategies that reduce recidivism and increase public safety.

#### **Congress reintroducing criminal justice bills**

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, announced he and a bipartisan group of senators **were reintroducing** the **Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act**, which would overhaul prison sentences for nonviolent drug offenders and allow for more judicial discretion during sentencing. Following this, Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., and John Cornyn, R-Texas, **reintroduced** the **Corrections Oversight, Recidivism Reduction, and Eliminating Costs for Taxpayers In Our National System Act**, which builds off of successful criminal justice reforms in the senators' respective states.

The CORRECTIONS Act requires the Department of Justice and its Federal Bureau of Prisons to find a way to reduce inmate recidivism rates. It also calls for lower-risk inmates to be put in less-restrictive conditions to reduce prison costs and allow for more resources to be shifted to law enforcement. The legislation also expands recidivism-reduction programs, and requires the federal probation office to plan for re-entry of prisoners ahead of time.

Kara Gotsch, who oversees the Sentencing Project's federal advocacy work, sees the likelihood of legislation passing as "small" and cited changes being made at the federal level in the Department of Justice under Attorney General Jeff Sessions as a cause for concern. She said to watch for harsher charging and sentencing policies taking effect now that more Trump-appointed U.S. attorneys are being installed," Gotsch noted that the Justice Department has predicted an increase in the prison population in 2018 after four years of decline under the Obama administration.. "Also, the U.S. Sentencing Commission is poised to issue new guideline amendments related to alternatives to incarceration which would expand eligibility for federal dependents to receive a non-incarceration sentence. I will be watching to see how far they extend it." The Justice Department says it will "continue to enforce the law" as the nation faces an opioid epidemic and "rising violent crime."

#### Second Chance Act Juvenile Community Supervision Improvement Program

This grant program provides grants to develop and implement comprehensive plans to improve juvenile community supervision using evidence-based supervision strategies to reduce recidivism and improve other outcomes for juveniles under community supervision, and prevent any further progression into the juvenile justice system.

#### Second Chance Act Innovations in Supervision

This grant program provides funding for states, units of local government, and federally recognized tribal governments to develop and test innovative strategies and implement evidence-based probation and parole approaches that effectively address people's criminogenic risk and needs and reduce recidivism

#### **With nearly full employment, hiring ex offenders gaining ground**

Though it is often with trepidation, more employers are now taking the chance on hiring ex felons, either after prison or on work release. As an example of how things have changed, a recent news item in the Washington Post related the story of one manufacturer who polled his employees whether he should hire an ex felon and received an overwhelmingly positive response. Both the American Civil Liberties Union and the NAACP confirm that they have seen a greater willingness to hire ex felons. .

When ACLU fellow Megan Marceline spoke about hiring ex felons to a large gathering of Oklahoma business executives, she found a receptive audience. "That would never have happened a year ago", she said. Thirty states so far, have some sort of ban the box laws. Many companies, like Walmart and Koch Industries don't do background checks till late in the hiring process. The trend bodes well for those leaving prison in the future.

## CURE Chapters

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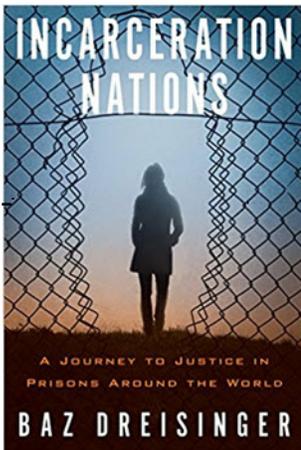
If you are not receiving updates and alerts from Virginia CURE, please send a message to

carla4vacure@gmail.com

To be added to our distribution list!

## Book Review:

### Incarceration Nation Baz Dreisinger (2016)



In this crucial study, named one of the Washington Post's Notable Nonfiction Books of 2016 and now in paperback, Baz Dreisinger goes behind bars in nine countries to investigate the current conditions in prisons worldwide. Professor, journalist, and founder of the Prison-to-College-Pipeline program, Dreisinger looks into the human stories of incarcerated men and women and those who imprison them, creating a jarring, poignant view of a world to which most are denied access, and a rethinking of one of America's most far-reaching global exports: the modern prison complex. From serving as a restorative justice facilitator in a notorious South African prison and working with genocide survivors in Rwanda, to launching a creative writing class in an overcrowded Ugandan prison and coordinating a drama workshop for women prisoners in Thailand, Dreisinger examines the world behind bars with equal parts empathy and intellect

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants– Virginia, Inc.  
**Virginia CURE**  
P.O. Box 2310  
Vienna, Virginia, 22183

Virginia CURE web site  
www.vacure.org

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*Use form for new memberships or to renew your membership*

## Membership in Virginia CURE

Join Virginia CURE today and become a part of the effort to work for criminal justice reform and safety in our communities. Send dues payment to:

Virginia CURE, P.O. Box 2310, Vienna, Virginia 22183

**Dues are payable January 1** on a yearly, non-prorated basis for current year. Prisoner members need to include state number on all communications to CURE.

*Remember to send address changes.*

### Check type of membership

- Prisoner\* \$ 2.00
- Individual \$ 20.00
- Family \$ 25.00
- Sustaining \$ 50.00
- Organization \$100.00
- Life \$100.00
- Renewal

Please make checks payable to **Virginia CURE**. Contributions are tax deductible under the provisions of 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code.

\*Prisoners may send five stamps.

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fax ( )

Involvement:  prisoner  family  friend  professional  volunteer

other \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

*please specify*

Virginia CURE invites prisoners to submit original articles, poetry and artwork for consideration for publication. Virginia CURE reserves the right to edit submissions accepted for publication.

Virginia CURE will not return submissions unless prior arrangements are made. Send submissions to: Newsletter Editor, Virginia CURE, P.O. Box 2310, Vienna, Virginia 22183

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