

What you can do

Call and/or write your legislators –

No loved one in prison? Tell them you are outraged at the waste of taxpayers' money and lives.

Loved one in prison? Tell them your story and ask that their aides help you get your loved one home.

To find out who your legislators are: 800-362-9472 or google

“who are my legislators?”

use this pamphlet for talking points

WE'LL MAKE THE LAW DO RIGHT!

Find out about “SECOND CHANCE” meets by phone conference and is working to spread the word about this old law campaign. All welcome

- Keep in touch with what is happening with OLD LAW PAROLE:
- Sign up for our alerts
- find out about our “listening sessions”
- help us organize an effective grassroots campaign to get these parole ready guys and gals out!!

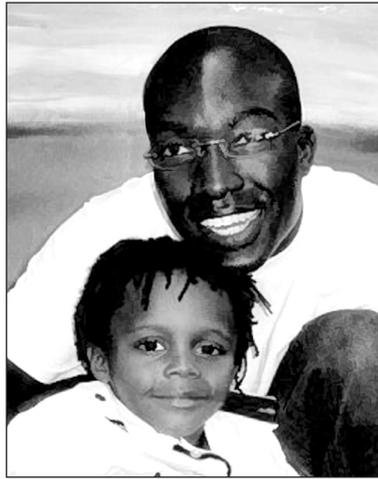
Call 608-536-3993; pgswan3@aol.com.

\$164 (min old law per day)
x 30 (days in month)
x 2887 old law inmates

\$14,204,040* per month to
keep old law inmates stuck

The average daily cost of probation or parole supervision in 2008 was \$3.42. The average cost of a prison inmate was \$78.95 or 20 times more than probation/parole (WIS TAX alliance). For old law prisoners, this number is between \$164 and \$273 per day.

*amounts based on minimum amounts, actual amounts would be higher



All old law prisoners have been in prison since 1999, many have served over 20 years. Many have multiple college and tech school degrees, have strong family support and are eager to give back to society. Others are sick and elderly and no longer dangerous.

It costs \$34,135 per year to house an average prisoner, but it costs between **\$60 and \$100,000** to house a prisoner age 50+ and not only is healthcare for this group skyrocketing, but prisons have no way to treat elderly inmates humanely.

The WI DOC is building hospice units for the very old and dying—people that are no danger to anyone. ALL of the cost is borne by the tax payer as those incarcerated are not eligible for Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security.

Due to health care costs for the elderly, other prison programs have been slashed. Plans for mental health units cannot be implemented due to lack of funds. WIDOC has trouble keeping enough professional health care staff due to low pay.

\$60,000 (minimum)
x 2887 (old law inmates)

\$173,220,000.00* per year to
keep old law inmates stuck

*amounts based on minimum amounts, actual amounts would be higher

Millions of Tax Dollars

Yes, Millions of dollars are spent to keep people in prison who have served their time and are ready for release.

We're not talking about an 18-year-old who committed a crime yesterday or last week, and doesn't even understand how selfish and terrifying he is to his own community and family. Those people need to do their time and hopefully be rehabilitated.

We're talking about those once 18-year-olds who have been incarcerated for 15 to 40 years, and have been parole eligible for many years, yet are being denied parole. We're talking about men who have matured, developed an adult's perspective, and can be seen as rehabilitated even by the most untrained eye; men who have been model inmates, completing several educational, vocational and life-enhancing programs.



Did you know that Wisconsin prisons hold over **2000 parole-eligible men** who are being denied parole **year after year?**

What is an Old Law Prisoner?

Short Version: We have 2887 prisoners who

- WERE sentenced before 2000, all are over thirty many are elderly and most pose no threat to the public.
- CAN prove themselves rehabilitated and ready for release.
- ARE ELIGIBLE for parole, all have been for years, some for decades
- ACCORDING to the law of that time, they were eligible for parole at 25 % of sentence
- have been kept in prison through the use of unwritten contradictory rules
- ARE NOT eligible for social security or medicare: all health bills are paid for by taxpayers
- THEY COST THE TAXPAYERS FROM \$30,000 TO \$150,000 a YEAR, depending on health needs—about \$80 / day in prison and would cost the taxpayers about 4 dollars a day if on parole (WI WSTAX 2008)

For more information:

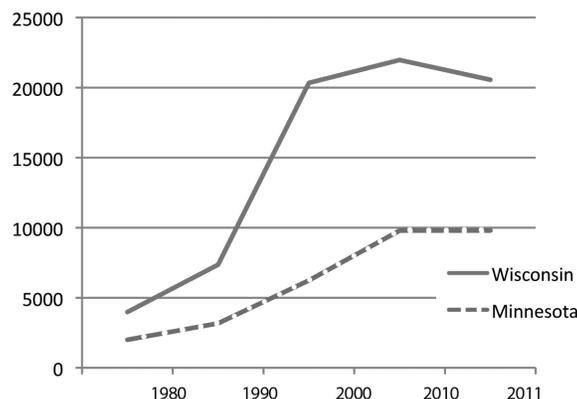
FFUP (Forum for Understanding Prisons)
c/o **Peggy Swan**
29631 Wild Rose Drive
Blue River, WI 53518; Web: prisonforum.org
608-536-3993; pgswan3@aol.com

Or

WISDOM

11x15 Campaign
3195 S Superior St, Suite 310
Milwaukee, WI 53207
Phone: (414) 831-2070
Organizer: **David Liners**
David.liners1@gmail.com

Total Incarcerated Skyrockets



“OLD LAW” Prisoners

Old law prisoners were sentenced before truth-in-sentencing was enacted in 1999 (thus the term “old Law”). At that time, the judge considered each case individually and sentences were given with the knowledge that the prisoner, with good behavior, could be released after serving one quarter (25%) of that sentence. A sentence of “life” meant that a prisoner was eligible for parole consideration after 13½ years.

Fact: Old law prisoners are eligible for release now.

Wisconsin has 2887 “Old Law Prisoners.” All Are eligible for parole.

When truth-in-sentencing was enacted, parole virtually stopped for this group, as well as for new people coming in. Hysteria was whipped up, and the prison boom began with supermaxes and prisoner populations mushrooming. Prisons became a major jobs program for rural communities which were losing their farms to global trade. Prison rehabilitation and schooling programs were slashed in order to pay for the thousands of incoming prisoners.

Wisconsin spends **eight times more** on prisons than Minnesota yet both have the same crime rate and similar populations.

For the first time in our history, Wisconsin is spending more on prisons than on our colleges and other institutions of higher learning.

While the U.S. has the highest per-capita incarceration rate and the most prisoners in the world, Wisconsin has the third-highest rate (0.4 percent of population) of all the states, with more than 22,000 prisoners, and also the second-highest incarceration rate of African-Americans.

Between 1970 and 2010, the number of people incarcerated in this country grew by 700%.

As a result, the United States incarcerates almost a quarter of the prisoners in the entire world although we have only 5% of the world’s population. At no other point in U.S. history—even when slavery was legal—has there been so many people held against their will.

Wisconsin is in a unique position because it need not pass any new laws to safely release eligible old law prisoners—it just needs the leadership and political will. Nationally, the population of prisoners age 55 and older is expected to increase by 4,400% amounting to 1/3 of the prison population by 2030. We can act now and lead the nation in a more sane prison policy.

At no other point in U.S. history—**even when slavery was legal**—has there been so many people held **against their will**