



TOMMY G. THOMPSON

Governor  
State of Wisconsin

April 28, 1994

Sec. Michael J. Sullivan  
Department of Corrections  
149 East Wilson Street  
Madison, WI 53707-7925

Dear Secretary Sullivan:

I write to you today regarding the administration of Wisconsin's mandatory release law.

I recently proposed and subsequently signed into law a bill to end mandatory parole for violent offenders in Wisconsin. In enacting that important change, legal counsel advised that any retroactive change in the law would be unconstitutional.

Therefore, although I have ended mandatory parole for violent offenders, there are some inmates already in prison who are still governed by the old release law.

I believe that mandatory release of violent criminals is wrong. That is why I called a Special Session of the legislature in 1987 to pass a "life means life" sentencing bill, and that is why I moved to end mandatory parole for violent offenders this year.

In order to implement this policy as fully as possible, I hereby direct the Department of Corrections to pursue any and all available legal avenues to block the release of violent offenders who have reached their mandatory release date.

The policy of this Administration is to keep violent offenders in prison as long as possible under the law.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tommy G. Thompson', written over a printed name and title.

Tommy G. Thompson  
Governor