Pennsylvania’s Prison Population

THE PROBLEM

Broken parole and sentencing systems send low-risk offenders to jail and block effective rehabilitation. Parolee recidivism alone costs $224 million annually.

The result: a 25% increase in Corrections costs since 2010 without corresponding safety returns.

THE SOLUTION

Establish effective sentencing by giving judges guidelines, updating community risk calculations, and streamlining substance abuse treatment.

Fix inefficient parole practices by paroling offenders at time served, not months after, which increases costs, not safety.

Customize parole supervision with performance-based contracts, efficient violation sanctions, and home plans for low-risk offenders—reducing parolee recidivism.

JRI SAVES

2012 JRI I reforms reduced the prison population by 1,500, saving over $96 million.

ESTIMATED SAVINGS of JRI II: $48.2 million over the next 5 years

SAFE & SMART, reducing recidivism and taxpayer costs

Pennsylvania faces a likely $1.7 billion budget deficit. Corrections is among the top four cost-drivers, reaching a projected $2.5 billion in 2018-19.

Passing JRI II reforms will make Pennsylvania safer. Instead of fast-tracking low-risk prisoners back to jail—on the taxpayer dime—these efficiency steps can equip them for productive life outside of prison.