

1 **HCR 4433 - H AMD 1288**

2 By Representative Padden

3 On page 1, line 1, after "WHEREAS," strike the remainder of
4 the resolution and insert the following:

5 "One of the most fundamental responsibilities government owes
6 its citizens is to maintain public safety, and one of the highest
7 priorities of government is to protect persons and their property
8 by adequately punishing and restraining those who cause them harm;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The public is questioning why convicted, incarcerated
11 criminals should be granted good-time credits and early release and
12 is demanding that offenders be required to serve the full terms of
13 their original sentences; and

14 WHEREAS, The people of Washington state and particularly those
15 citizens who have been victims of crime have a right to expect
16 their government will ensure that individuals convicted of serious,
17 violent crimes are removed from the community, and that
18 incarcerated criminals serve their full sentences as originally
19 imposed; and

20 WHEREAS, There is no way to shorten the original sentences
21 imposed on victims by criminals that resulted in offenders becoming
22 prison inmates in the first place; and

23 WHEREAS, Eliminating good-time credits and early release of
24 convicted, incarcerated criminals would better ensure that the
25 rights of victims are maintained and would better assist government
26 in meeting its responsibility and priority of maintaining public
27 safety and protecting its citizens; and

28 WHEREAS, Those who commit crimes should be appropriately
29 punished in order that they learn personal responsibility, self-
30 control, respect for the law, an understanding of the pain they
31 have caused their victims, and an appreciation of the freedoms and

1 many legitimate opportunities available outside correctional and
2 detention facilities; and

3 WHEREAS, Eliminating good-time credits and early release of
4 convicted, incarcerated criminals would better ensure offenders
5 know that their punishment is certain and that they will be held
6 accountable for their acts; and

7 WHEREAS, Programs and activities available to inmates in
8 correctional and detention facilities should reflect positive
9 character traits, practical qualities, and constructive values that
10 contribute to the betterment of society, promote good citizenship,
11 and prepare inmates to lead disciplined, productive, and law-
12 abiding lives upon their release; and

13 WHEREAS, Eliminating good-time credits and early release of
14 convicted, incarcerated criminals would better ensure that inmates
15 are adequately prepared to re-enter society; and

16 WHEREAS, The expense of keeping violent criminals in secure
17 confinement is substantially less significant than the expense of
18 letting violent criminals back on the streets, and the economic,
19 social and personal costs of crime to victims far outweigh the
20 costs of apprehending, prosecuting, and incarcerating for the full
21 terms of their original sentences those who commit serious, violent
22 crimes; and

23 WHEREAS, The costs of incarceration are higher in Washington
24 state than the national average which suggests that Washington can
25 and should find ways to reduce its average cost of incarceration;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Funds saved through cost-cutting measures, such as
28 allowing privatization and reducing restraints on competitive
29 bidding for the design, construction and operation of correctional
30 and detention facilities, programs, and services, would help meet
31 state and local criminal justice funding needs and the additional
32 costs resulting from the elimination of good-time credits and early
33 release;

1 WHEREAS, The policies of granting good-time credits and early
2 release are unfair to those who were the victims of such prisoners
3 and to the victims of future crimes committed by offenders on early
4 release; and

5 WHEREAS, It is time that government began listening to what
6 the law-abiding citizens of Washington state are demanding rather
7 than what convicted felons would like;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of
9 Representatives of the state of Washington, the Senate concurring,
10 That a Legislative Task Force on Truth in Sentencing be established
11 to: (1) Review the current statutes, regulations, and
12 administrative policies under which the Department of Corrections
13 grants good-time credits and early release and propose their
14 demise; (2) study the effect that early release programs have had
15 on victims of felons who are out on early release; (3) recommend
16 alternatives to the Department of Corrections' use of good-time
17 credits, early release, and other incentives for controlling inmate
18 behavior such as allowing for an increase in sentences up to 50%
19 over the given sentence for bad behavior; and (4) estimate the
20 fiscal impact of any recommended modifications or alternatives,
21 including societal cost savings from crimes that are not committed
22 because felons are in prison, including the cost savings of
23 allowing privatization and reducing restraints on competitive
24 bidding for the design, construction and operation of correctional
25 and detention facilities, programs, and services, and other
26 innovative cost-cutting measures, to off-set the costs of
27 eliminating early release for convicted, incarcerated criminals;
28 and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consist of
30 the following ten voting members:

31 (1) Five members from the Senate Committee on Law and Justice,
32 one of whom shall be the committee chair, two of whom shall be
33 additional members from the majority party, and two of whom shall

1 be members from the minority party, to be appointed by each of the
2 two largest caucuses in the Senate respectively; and

3 (2) Five members from the House of Representatives Committee
4 on Corrections, one of whom shall be the committee chair, two of
5 whom shall be additional members from the majority party, and two
6 of whom shall be members from the minority party, to be appointed
7 by each of the two largest caucuses in the House of Representatives
8 respectively; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a representative from the
10 Department of Corrections shall act as a liaison and nonvoting
11 member of the task force; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a representative from a crime
13 victims group shall act as a liaison and nonvoting member of the
14 task force; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall be cochaired
16 by the chair of the House of Representatives Committee on
17 Corrections and the chair of the Senate Committee on Law and
18 Justice, or their designees; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consult with
20 members of the public and private sectors or ask such persons to
21 form an advisory committee; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall use
23 legislative staff and facilities. All expenses of the task force,
24 including travel, shall be paid jointly by the Senate and the House
25 of Representatives; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall report its
27 findings and recommendations to eliminate the use of good-time
28 credits and early release to the legislature by December 31, 1994;
29 and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall expire
31 December 31, 1994."

EFFECT: Changes the task force from Legislative Task Force on Good-Time Credits to Legislative Task Force on Truth in Sentencing and charges them with reporting to the legislature findings and recommendations regarding elimination of good-time credits and early release.

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