

This letter is for testimony
for the Correctional Advisory
Committee Public Hearing that
will be taken place on:
January 29, 2026

Hello,

My name is Matthew Joseph Flazler. First off I'd like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am writing to you today because I am seeking your help in finding out if I've been fairly treated or not by both the board of pardons and parole and the community release unit of the DOC. Back in March of 2025 I was denied parole, with no new hearing date, and told the decision was final. This was my first time ever going before the parole board and I've never been given one chance at being on parole ever. Their decision was based upon criminal history and failure on probation as the reasons for denial. They did not consider the gains I've made since becoming incarcerated. Parole is different than probation. The parole department never has given me even one chance to prove myself under their supervision. Subsequently in August of 2025 the community release unit of the DOC denied me a halfway house and was told the decision was final. I believe that I am being ostracized and profiled because of my original charges and not being looked upon as an individual person. Back in 2013 I pleaded guilty to sexual assault 2nd degree for being in a relationship with a 15 year old when I was 21 that had occurred the previous year (which is classified as a non-violent crime). Since then I violated my probation 3 times over 10 years. These violations I admitted to, and in no way am I minimizing my violations here, but instead just stating the facts; these violations were purely technical violations, meaning I did not commit any new crime. Also in 2023 (same case) I pleaded guilty to not registering, due to my own mistake in not understanding that even if I was sent subsequent registering letters the original first letter that was mailed to me was always a must to be sent back no matter what. Lastly in this case I pleaded guilty to failing to appear for court because I entered a drug inpatient program as a way to try to "save" myself from being incarcerated, which was not a correct action. My violations were related to a failure to stay sober. I struggle with addiction and depression. Probation did try to help me, however, I couldn't stop using opioids though. I was given a flat time sentence of 4 years, no probation afterwards, and also never do I have to

register again as well. This 4 years was left my entire suspended sentence that I had over me from my original case. I took it because I believed I'd be home at 50% with my non-violent status.

I am a father to two amazing sons, Trenton age 5, and Landon age 3. I come to prison when both were only 2½ years old and 6 months old respectively. Their mother sadly started to lose the ability to parent and currently each set of grandparents are helping to raise these two boys in my absence. (I did go to court before either were born to make sure legally there was zero issues in being their parent just to be safe due to my charges and found that I had this legal ability. The court ruled I was not at risk to reoffend with anyone at this time). Since being incarcerated I've done everything possible to be able to return home early and support my children. I've attended AA meetings, took the treatment program provided for a sexual offense, completed the tier 2 drug program, as well as the embracing fatherhood program. I've done all my required programs except for voices, which I'm on the waitlist for. Not only this, but I completed the culinary arts vocational program and am now in a second vocational program, electro mechanical. I have no DR tickets. On top of all this I've been attending college from Yale (Yale Prison education initiative - YPEI for short) at the same time, over 18 months, 5 semesters, and 13 classes, I've retained a perfect 4.0 GPA from Yale professors. The parole board and community release unit did not consider these achievements nor did they factor in these programs in their decision to not grant me an early release. I've only been at this facility 26 months and accomplished all this in such a short time too. They obviously only looked at my original offense and that was that. My personal understanding is that parole is supposed to consider what I've achieved since being incarcerated to assess if I tried to transcend my criminal mistakes or not. I feel this was not done. Also in March of 2025 there was community backlash being faced by the state for the release of 72 violent offenders and for the previous year, which number I would probably be considered politically in the cross fire here based upon my charges' stigmas, even though it's non-violent.

Lastly, (I'm unsure if it's true) I've heard that since March 2025 the parole board has been removed and new members appointed because they switched and were overly harsh in denials due to this political pressure, as well as one member's personal integrity became corrupted. I currently have 10 months left with good time, but my children and elderly parents need me home. I'm asking this committee to help me determine if I was treated unfairly and/or if my rights were violated. If so what can be done? I've written to both the community release unit of the DOC and the board of pardons and parole and been given generic answers that their decisions are always final in reply. I really feel bad not being at home yet supporting my sons and need your help trying to obtain just a chance to prove myself on early release. My inmate number is 396326 and am being housed at MacDougall CI still because I've placed a hold on being transferred to be able to stay to attend college. I'm unsure if being at a level 4 facility also affected my parole and halfway house eligibility as well. I want to be a productive member of society again. The 5 years prior to my incarceration I started working at Dunkin Donuts as a 3rd shift baker, the only job I could find with a felony. I worked so hard that I rose all the way to store manager and ran the store for 18 months. When my first son was born I couldn't pay the bills still, even working 12 plus hours a day. So I learned hands on how to cook. With no experience I applied to be a cook at 2 different restaurants and worked at least 10 hours a day to support my growing family and then coming home to co-parent my children. Upon my release I still will have these jobs available and now potential scholarships to continue college with my excellent grades. Thank you for your time in reading my letter and your help.

Sincerely,

~~Matthew S. Frazier~~

Matthew J. Frazier