

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants

An international organization that seeks to reduce crime through prison reform by people who are incarcerated, their families and others concerned.
 POB 2310 Washington, DC 20013 202-789-2126 email: cure@curenational.org
 The CURE websites are: www.curenational.org & www.internationalcure.org

“It does not have to be CURE, but an organization like CURE should be keeping an eye on every prison.”

Dear Friends, on January 2, 1972, CURE began in San Antonio, Texas, with a bus service for families to visit their loved ones in prison. The buses were rented from a school system and driven by our volunteers. Later, we rented one bus and had more trips. These round trips would be all day and we heard stories about the horrors of the prison's inmate guard system.



In the 1973 legislative session, we brought the families in our bus to Austin where the state legislature was meeting to pass a bill, House Bill 1056, to abolish using prisoners as guards. Rep. Joe L. Hernandez, the bill's sponsor, is shown left speaking to the families in the House gallery.

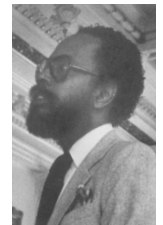
Pictured right are Fred and Frances Cruz who testified for the bill. Recently released, Fred was a great “writ-writer” as jailhouse lawyers are called in Texas. Francis was an attorney with 28 prisoner clients. The prison system vehemently testified that prisoners did not have any disciplinary, supervisory, or administrative power and were not guards.



Surprisingly, our bill, HB 1056, passed and was signed by the Governor. The prison system liked us when we ran the bus service, but didn't like us when we passed a prison reform. Also, we began to realize that services and advocacy cannot be in the same organization. We opted for advocacy and moved to Austin and did prison reforms for the next eleven years.



We (shown left) visited legislators to encourage the creation of a statewide jail and probation commissions. Pictured left to right are Rep. Lyndon Olson and Sen. Babe Schwartz, the sponsors of the probation bill. Later, Sen. Schwartz passed the ex-felon vote. Next is Rep. Ed Emmett who established contact visits in the prisons and Rep. Walter Martinez who authored the reporting of deaths in custody. Finally, pictured is Sen. Lloyd Doggett who brought about people of color and women on the parole board and Sen. Ray Farabee who removed the Governor from having the power to veto paroles once approved.



To pass this legislation, there were many people and research involved. Shown is Sen. Chet Brooks receiving an award from CURE leader Annabelle “Mama” Fortenot. Next is Pauline at the parole agency documenting a lack of paroles. Then, there is formerly incarcerated Don Taylor who met Charlie playing basketball, joined CURE, and later was elected CURE chair.

But, massive reform came through two court cases. The first was *Ruiz v Estelle* which is the most comprehensive and longest civil rights lawsuit ever filed. Shown left to right are litigants David Ruiz and Lawrence Pope, and federal Judge William Wayne Justice. His court order included the hiring of 2,000 correctional officers to take the place of the inmate guards. Prison board member Harry Whittington (shown next to Judge Justice) supported this and all the other prison reforms.

Also, right after *Ruiz*, a prisoner, Elroy Brown, was charged with the killing of two prison staffers, a warden and a farm manager. A legislative leader, Sen. Craig A. Washington, who is shown above on the right, was asked to defend him in jury trials. Mr. Brown was found to have acted in self-defense. CURE testified in both the *Ruiz* litigation and the Brown trials.

In 1985, with mixed feelings and after a fundraiser sponsored by Nick Kralj and coordinated by Wally Ellinger yielded \$10,000, we rented a u-haul truck, packed our belongings and drove to Washington, DC, to start National CURE.

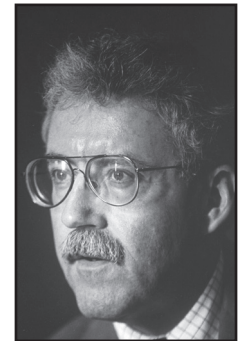
NATIONAL CURE

Initially, our apartment in DC was our office. Then, the Jesuits at St. Aloysius Church near the capitol gave us an office. In 1987 CURE had its first convention and Cong. John Conyers was the main speaker. Later, he asked Charlie to come to his district in Detroit to start Michigan CURE. Cong. Conyers continued this support throughout his many years in Congress.

Pictured are participants in our 1991 Convention which had a prisoner art exhibit coordinated by Dot Briggs (shown sitting under the letters "EN" in our banner). Also present was Jean Auldrige (standing on the left) the leader of Virginia CURE, and Paul Kruger who is holding the banner and then and now, is our "go to guy" for computer problems and our webmaster. Standing behind Paul was CURE chair Lois Williamson.



Shown on the right with us is Sen. Mark Hatfield who National CURE honored for his leadership to abolish the death penalty. Pictured in front of the Supreme Court are Lois and Ken Robison who talked to Sen. Hatfield about Larry, their mentally ill son then on Texas death row. Afterwards, Sen. Hatfield spoke on the Senate floor about his plight. Years later, Larry was executed.



Besides conventions, National CURE was organizing chapters. Shown is Don Weaver (left) and Charlie (right) meeting in Colorado with Dianne and Habe Tramutola-Lawson. Dianne is now chair of International CURE. Also, pictured next is a meeting where issue as well as state chapters were established. On the back row left to right are Wendell Brown (center with glasses) who started LifeLong-CURE (lifers), Bob Vieweg who began CURE-Enough (reentry) and Loren Perry who started SORT (Sex Offenders Restored through Treatment). Kay Perry, the leader of Michigan CURE and former chair of National CURE, is in front of Loren while Hedy Harden, leader of Missouri-CURE, is on Kay's right and Louise Carcione, leader of Massachusetts CURE, is on Kay's left. Many of these wonderful leaders have died and this includes Loren. Pictured on the right is Wayne Bowers who is now and has been the SORT chapter leader for many years.



17 states were represented at the Challenging Life Sentences Conference in 2019 in Detroit. CURE leaders present included front row Lea Green (MD) 3rd from left, Karen Cain (OR) 6th, and on the far right Claudia Whitman (CO) and Checo Yancy (LA) who is Vice-Chair of CURE. Second row is first on left Keith Brown-El (MO), Terry Stein (OR) Suzie Rimstidt (IN) and Eldon Dillingham (KS) 10th from left. Back row are Willis Harris (MI) 8th and Tom Chleboski (MD) 11th from left.

INTERNATIONAL CURE



Shown are participants at the Rwanda conference in 2018 that was organized by Pius Nyakayiro (second from left on front row) and Heidi Cerneka (center on front row). In 2001, CURE had the first International Conference on Human Rights and Prison Reform in New York City. Since then, other other global conferences have been in Switzerland, Nigeria, Thailand, Costa Rica and Rwanda. These have resulted in receiving consultative status from the United Nations. In fact, we were working with the UN on its Crime Conference in 2020 in Japan when it had to be cancelled because of Covid 19.

In 2023, International CURE will have its 9th global conference in Nairobi, Kenya, and our continental chapter Pan Africa CURE (PAC) will host it. To receive information in English as details becomes available, email PAC Coordinator Peter Onyango Olwal onkols@gmail.com (the first shown right next to this print). If info is needed in French, email PAC Assistant Coordinator Seth-Benoit Niyukuri kikishalom2@gmail.com (shown next to Peter). Peter and Seth are compiling an email list. Also, email Peter for the latest emailed PAC newsletter.



Moreover, International CURE's President Charlie Sullivan emailed United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres to bring about a UN-connected regional human rights commission in Asia. Asia is the only continent that does not have a commission. Shown left to right are the email's co-chairs, Sarmad Ali of Pakistan, Brett Collins of Australia and Mary Pat Donelan (shown next to Brett) and Heidi Cerneka (pictured above) helped to do the email to Secretary Guterres with an attached list of people from 12 Asian countries in support.

In addition, Charlie, Mary Pat and Heidi helped to publish a newsletter by COTA (CURE of the Americas) that was written in the four languages used in both continents. Heidi did the Portuguese, Bruno Van der Maat of Peru (shown left) did the Spanish and French and Karen Ellis-Lancaster of Trinidad & Tobago wrote and edited the newsletter in English. Karen is shown right with John Clark and Jolene Romain. Also, pictured is Hans Hallundbreck who chairs an annual summit on prison reform at the UN in New York City. And finally, shown is Sylvester Uhaa, leader of Nigeria-CURE, and Kassi Djeinzou Augustin, leader of Ghana-CURE. Although both country chapters are in Africa, we welcome anyone globally who wants to start a country, state or local chapter.



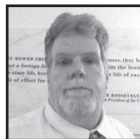
Before we close, we want to highlight Betty (shown standing left) and Rudy Cypser (shown standing right) for doing so much to launch our international movement for prison reform. Pictured sitting left to right are Charlie, Jose Filho and Luis Payan after a human rights presentation prepared by the Cypers. And between the Cypers is Alan Pogue who took almost all the pictures in this newsletter and those we have used since our first newsletter in 1974. Thanks, Alan!

In closing, when we started 50 years ago, there was a Texas saying that "You have to be on the jury to hang the jury!" In other words, CURE must be a part of the system but also be willing to go against the system when it is wrong. This has not been easy. We thank each of you for struggling with us.

Pauline & Charlie Sullivan,
CURE Cofounders



UPDATES



Shown left to right are Shannon Copeland, Timothy Burgess and Tom Petersik

Florida CURE, women prisoners contact Cochair Shannon Copeland (see above), theshannoncopeland@gmail.com, PO Box 370, Bristol, FL 32321 (850) 508-6498. Contact Cochair William Patton, Wpatton3601@gmail.com, 88570 NW 10th Ave, Ocala, FL 34475 571-528-4048 (calls later after work). FL-CURE is starting & needs free-world help.

Vermont CURE, PO Box 183, Jeffersonville, VT 05464 Email: timothy.r.burgess@gmail.com 802-851-9519 Timothy R. Burgess is leader.

Email prisonlaborreform@gmail.com to Dr. Tom Petersik (shown above) who is CURE's adviser for good jobs & good wages in prison.. This helps children of prisoners who are more numerous than the entire prisoner population.

Just Detention International (JDI) has been instrumental in implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). People in detention may write JDI via confidential legal mail at the following address: Cynthia Totten, Esq. CA Attorney Reg. #199266, 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

Finding Our Way Home: Reclaiming the Kingdom in Post-Evangelical America by Rev. Stan Moody & *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth* by Kristin Henning & second edition of *Your Life on The List*, registry survival guide by Derek Logue & mail a tax exempt contribution to Positive Attitude Development, C/O OCEAN, PO Box 231, Duluth MN 55801 to develop an online grassroots data base on civil commitment & *Dirty Works: Obscenity on Trial in America's First Sexual Revolution* by Brett Gary. Also, please see www.humanrightsdefensecenter.org. *African American Women with Incarcerated Mates: The Psychological and Social Impacts of Mass imprisonment* by Avon-Hart-Johnson. MS-CURE is starting Email curemississippi@gmail.com

Check out the Campaign to End Life Imprisonment, contact Alexandra Bailey, 1705 DeSales St. NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20036 Abailey@sentencingproject.org Life sentences would be 20 years or less in prison.

ANNUAL SURVEY SUPPORTS ENDING THE WAR ON DRUGS

CURE received 65 “yes” votes in our survey to seek first to have drug sentences decriminalized like Oregon did recently. Drug prohibition would still exist for hard drugs, but the fine would be about the same amount as the cost of a “parking ticket.” Also, simple drug possession/use sentences would be a civil fine, no jail time and no record. Many drug sentences would be “defelonized” which means felonies would be reduced to misdemeanors.

Finally, two results of decriminalization would be respect for police officers in that instead of booking people, they would direct them into drug treatment and other supportive services. And secondly, “decrim” would soften the community for accepting a SIS (Supervised Injection Site) or often called a OPS (Overdose Protection Site). Seven voted that they may support decriminalization, but they need more information. Eleven said that they opposed “decrim.” Instead, we should get to the root of the addiction. And they wrote “Do not promote criminal activity!”

WHAT ABOUT NON-PROFIT PRIVATE PRISONS?

A prison operated by a non-profit organization could combine the advantages of private prisons with the advantages of government prisons. This could result in innovation and accountability. These benefits outweigh the disadvantages and nonprofit prisons should be tried on an experimental basis. Moreover, non-profit organizations tend to be driven by ideology-- a sense of purpose and mission. This would bring enthusiasm and much more community volunteers.

On the other hand, there could be too much dependence on volunteers. In the same way, funding to non-profits is not constant and this can cause instability and inefficiency. Although these disadvantages of a non-profit private prison must not be ignored, non-profit private prisons offer a focus on rehabilitation rather than the present warehousing.

Should CURE advocate for a pilot non-profit private prison or jail? Write us why you think this is a good idea or a bad idea. Mail it to CURE, PO Box 2310, Washington, DC 20013 Email: cure@curenational.org THANKS!

I WANT TO HELP CURE CONTINUE ITS WORK IN 2022

Here is my tax-deductible contribution. CURE PO Box 2310 Washington, DC 20013

\$5 ____ \$10 ____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____ \$500 ____ \$1,000 ____ Other \$ ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State : _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

117th Congress

A Congress is two years and this one began Jan. 2021, and ends in Jan. 2023. Below are the criminal justice bills that have been introduced. The American Rescue Plan, now Public Law 117-2, was signed by Pres. Biden in March, 2021, and included funding for a third round of stimulus checks (incarcerated included); help with employment and training for those who are released & funding for pretrial release programs.

HR 176 by Rep. Watson Coleman restricts the use of solitary confinement in federal prisons.

HR 262 by Rep. Pressley/**S. 582** by Sen. Durbin bars death penalty for fedl crimes. If sentenced before enactment of bill, must be resentenced.

HR 546 by Jeffries bars monitoring of contents of privileged electronic communication between prisoner & legal representative. Passed House.

HR 948 by Rep. Pressley/**S. 341** by Sen. Booker improves care of pregnant/postpartum women in prisons; mandates study on Medicaid ineligibility.

HR 955 by Rep. Tonko/**S. 285** by Sen. Baldwin allows Medicaid payment for medical services for people in prison 30 days before release. Currently included in the Build Back Better bill which passed House; Senate consideration in 2022.

HR 959 by Rep. Underwood/**S. 346** by Sen. Booker mandates programs be provided to improve maternal health care & limits use of restraints on pregnant prisoners.

HR 961 by Rep. Scanlon exempts those under 22 from requirements of inmate grievance procedure including exhausting administrative remedies to file federal lawsuits. Passed the full House.

HR 929 by Rep. Deutch reduces the time elderly must serve before chance at home confinement.

HR 994 by Rep. Grijalva bans use of for-profit confinement facilities & detention centers; sets requirements for standards of detention; limits fees/charges for transfer of money to inmates; & caps rates charged on communication services.

HR 1072 by Rep. Pressley/**S. 324** by Sen. Warren requires public reports on COVID19 data in all correctional facilities.

HR 1249 by Rep. Lieu bans money bail in federal criminal cases; discourages it in state systems.

HR 1280 by Rep. Bass increases accountability for law enforcement misconduct; restricts certain policing practices; enhances enforcement to remedy violations. Passed the full House.

HR 1408 by Rep. Deutch establishes/modifies programs supporting public defense services.

HR 1693 by Rep. Jeffries/**S. 79** by Sen. Booker ends federal sentencing disparity between drug offenses involving crack & powder cocaine. Passed full House by large margin, 361-66.

HR 2152 by Rep. Lieu provides grants to replace bail systems that use payment for pretrial release.

HR 2858 by Rep. Westerman/**HR 5150** by Rep. Smith retroactively ends life without parole by giving those convicted as children ability to petition a judge for review after 20 years.

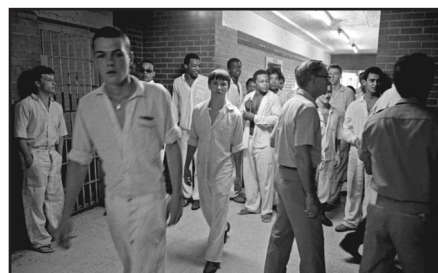
HR 2993 by Rep. Barragan/**S. 328** by Sen. Warren requires prevent spread of COVID19 in fed prisons.

HR 2366 by Rep. Kuster/**S. 1457** by Sen. Markey sets up programs to address addiction/overdoses caused by illicit fentanyl and other opioids.

HR 2489 by Rep. Rush ensures just charges for all confinement facilities' communications services.

HR 2834 by Rep. Cardenas/**S. 2498** by Sen. Booker requires parents to be notified when a child is arrested and consultation with legal counsel before waiving of rights.

HR 2837 by Rep. Cohen/**S. 2667** by Sen. Booker repeals lifetime bans on drug felony convictions from accessing food (SNAP) & basic (TANF).



HR 2908 by Rep. Bass makes 12 the minimum age for criminal culpability for children and increases 13 to 16 minimum age for child tried as an adult. **(See picture above.)**

HR 3117 by Rep. Pressley/**S. 1573** by Sen. Warren requires federal law enforcement officers & prison staff to obtain immediate medical attention for a person in fed custody displaying medical distress; criminalizes this negligent failure for those that result in unnecessary pain, injury or death.

HR 3141 by Rep. D. Davis/**S. 1534** by Sen. Peters & Portman sets up the Reentry Employment Opportunities Program to give grants for job training to formerly incarcerated adults, youths & young adults who have dropped out of school.

HR 3372 by Rep. Bass/**S. 1733** by Sens. Klobuchar & Cornyn funds nonprofits for one-stop reentry.

HR 3510 by Rep. Jeffries/**S. 1014** by Sens. Durbin & Grassley would retroactively apply sentencing reforms passed in 2018; allow judges flexibility on federal mandatory minimums; major reform for those sentenced as youths to have their lengthy sentences reconsidered.

HR 3595 by Rep. Kaptur/**S. 1837** by Sen. Brown provides grants to police and corrections for behavioral health crisis response training.

HR 3617 by Rep. Nadler decriminalizes marijuana; establishes a process to expunge federal convictions. Passed House Judiciary Committee

HR 3669 by Rep. Nadler/**S. 312** by Sens. Durbin & Grassley expands eligibility for compassionate release based on COVID19 vulnerability; shortens waiting period for judicial review. Passed Senate Judiciary committee

HR 3963 by Rep. Dean/**S. 2095** by Sen. Schatz expands federal compassionate release authority and elderly home confinement access for those with COVID19 risk.

HR 4035 by Rep. Jackson Lee prioritizes vets court treatment programs that give equal access for racial & ethnic minorities & women Passed House.

HR 4709 by Rep. Jayapal/**S. 2477** by Sen. Wyden diverts certain parents of minor children, expectant parents & other caregivers from incarceration into robust community programs.

HR 4744 by Rep. Cardenas/**S. 2507** by Sen. Booker provides grants for states to provide mental health services to juveniles in detention; requires those states to ban certain fees on juveniles.

HR 5034 by Rep. Trone to provide grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to reduce the number of individuals in local jails.

HR 5455 by Rep. Jackson Lee/**S. 2914** by Sens. Durbin & Grassley clarifies retroactive provisions of First Step Act of 2018 to include those who are sentenced for low-level crack offenses pre-2010.

HR 5651 by Rep. Trone/**S. 3049** by Sen. Van Hollen establishes grants to States to modernize criminal justice data infrastructure to help automate record sealing and expungement.

HR 5722 by Rep. Trone/**S. 309** by Sen. Durbin removes the presumption of pretrial detention for a person charged with fed drug offense & maximum term of imprisonment is 10 yr or more.

HR 6234 by Rep. Pressley would create an independent U.S. Clemency Board with 9 members, including a formerly incarcerated person; the board reviews applications and sends recommendations directly to the President.



HJRes 53 by Rep. Williams/ **SJRes 21** by Sen. Merkley proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the use of slavery & involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime. **(See picture above.)**

S. 481 by Sen. Cardin, gives federal voting rights to those released from federal prisons. Included in the voting rights bill currently before the Senate. Also, President Biden issued an Executive Order in March promoting access to voting, including for eligible individuals in federal custody.

S. 1013 by Sen. Durbin reduces federal mandatory minimum sentences for drug trafficking; applies changes retroactively.

S. 3164 by Sens. Cardin & Leahy/**HR 5853** by Rep. Raskin to require that government agencies comply with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests relating to private prisons, jails or detention facilities, including immigration detention facilities.

S. 1541 by Sen. Duckworth ensures just and reasonable charges for telephone & advanced communication services in confinement facilities.

S. 3060 by Sen. Schatz/**HR 5676** by Rep. Dean, expands access to education in federal prisons.

The **Build Back Better Act, HR 5376**, passed the House & includes significant funding for justice system-impacted individuals reentering society from prisons and jails, including expanded job training & employment opportunities, housing assistance, and better health care access. The Senate will consider the bill in 2022, and we'll be pushing for these provisions to stay in the bill.