

September 14, 2018
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Dear Governor Brown:

I am concerned about criminal stigmata. The justice system is designed to mete out punishments for crimes without further damaging society by creating a second class of outlaws as a weak government might be reduced to doing. Thirty years ago there was a move to get tough with minimum sentencing and the infamous three strikes law in which California played a leading role. This has created a vast population of people (particularly black men) with felony records for whom voting, renting homes, finding jobs and simply acting as a member of society has become much more difficult. This same pattern is being replayed against immigrants with a zero tolerance policy and extremely minor, decades old misdemeanors being used to excuse draconian penalties such as deportation, indefinite detention and termination of parental rights. California has again been taking the lead with last year's ban the box bill, the reclassification of many low level crimes and strictures against reporting to ICE but much is left to do.

Please assure me tht you will keep working to reintegrate released prisoners into society.

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our sensible progressive government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson