

10/16/15

Dear Mr. Heaton:

I have the following suggestions for your commission:

1) eliminate enhancement of class A retail theft to felony

2) eliminate registration for ^{sex offender} people convicted of ^{indecent} public exposure class A ^{misdemeanor}

3) make failure to register as a sex offender when the offender has not moved just was late & voluntarily came to police station a ^{misdemeanor} ~~felony~~ offense

4) chronic DUI offenders who have never harmed anyone have too harsh of penalties / same with Driving After Revocation -

5) Burglary to a vehicle w/no damage (unlocked) should be a misdemeanor • eg. perpetrator takes change from unlocked car

6) compel probation departments to use the statute as written instead of taking violations to court.

7) escape which is the result of turning oneself in late; still w/in 24 hours should be a misdemeanor. NOT a FELONY

8) mental health courts are afraid to accept violent offenses even when there's no great bodily harm

9) mentally ill people who disrobe in public are being convicted of class A misdemeanor which requires them to register as a sex offender which is ridiculous. Then they invariably fail to register when they go off their meds.

10) A lot of statutes about enhancement were meant to be discretionary but politicians are worried about reelection so they enhance everything.

~~11) change amendment~~

The fear of not being reelected is the driving force behind many decisions in the criminal justice system.

11) Aggravated Battery to a police officer when there is no bodily harm should not be a class 2 felony.

Sincerely

Margaret M. O'Connor
Winnebago County Asst. Public Defender

* former chief of criminal division in a large prosecutor's office. I understand both sides.

We have people on pre-trial services probation... for 2+ years. Why not give them credit for that compliance post-sentence?