

**Raised Bill 7407: AN ACT CONCERNING CITIZEN OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.**

I believe an oversight commission could give needed attention to:

**Rehabilitation  
Re-entry  
Children of incarcerated women**

I have been a volunteer at York Correctional Institution for over eight years and I am currently teaching a course called "Parenting and Personality." My goal in this course is to increase the inmate's understanding of herself and her children.

It has been my observation that little effort has been made at YCI to rehabilitate prisoners and ease their re-entry. For example-- three years ago I wrote a proposal to bring inmates and their children together in a program facilitated by volunteers from Madison and Guilford. I have not received an answer.

There also appears to be limited oversight by the DOC. For example-- I was also unsuccessful in finding a place for one of my student's to vent what, in my opinion, was a justifiable grievance. After looking into the ombudsman program I discovered that contacting him might put her in jeopardy because before a prisoner complains it is necessary for them to first make public--their name and number. In other words—Catch 22.

Over the years, I believe the focus at YCI has shifted from rehabilitation and as a result recidivism has risen.

I applaud the efforts to establish an oversight commission. Our children need their mothers. Their mothers need your help.

Sincerely,



Jeanne C. Finn