

January 14, 2015

The Honorable Julie Lassa
Room 20 South State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Lassa,

My name is Danielle Karch. I am a senior at Amherst High School and attend Redeemer Lutheran Church. I am writing to advocate for changing 17 year olds who committed nonviolent crimes as juveniles, not as adults. I, myself, am 17 and I believe that by doing this, our government will help correct those young troubled minds and turn them into creative minds to help benefit society. By keeping these adolescents out of prisons, we can help them to find a future for themselves and keep another person out of poverty. If we try these kids as adults before they can even get a job, they will never be able to get a leg up. They will spend the rest of their life paying for one small, nonviolent mistake.

Trying 17 year olds as juveniles and not adults after committing a nonviolent crime will help young people emerge out of the system equipped to find jobs, avoiding recidivism, and not in poverty.

I ask that you support to change our justice system from handling 17 year old offenders of nonviolent crimes as adults to charging them as juveniles.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for any efforts you put forward to support prison reform for 17 year old youth who have committed nonviolent crimes and for helping to create a better future for Wisconsin. I appreciate it and I hope you have a lovely day.

Sincerely,

Danielle Karch
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