

No end for jammed prisons

Gov's inmate release plan won't solve budget and space crisis

Norman Sinclair / The Detroit News Monday, April 16, 2007



Michigan prisons bulging

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

By Judy Putnam
Lansing Bureau



Published March 20, 2007 A Lansing State Journal editorial

Prisons: State has to conserve prison space for worst



Michigan among top states in prisoners, costs

By Sarah Kellogg
Washington Bureau
Monday, July 11, 2005



Friday, February 23, 2007

Sensible inmate releases can reduce state costs



Open mind on inmate release

Tuesday, February 06, 2007



Feb. 15, 2005 Editorial

Corrections system is using up too much of our tax money

Packed prisons costly for Michigan taxpayers

Sunday, November 16, 2003

Jackson Citizen Patriot Editorial

Published February 18, 2007

John Gear: Michigan is well on its way to imprisoning its economy, future



JUSTICE?

Michigan's parole system continues to draw debate

By Patrick Keating
Michigan Chronicle

Nov. 9-15, 2005

JEFF GERRITT:
FREE PRESS COLUMNIST

Inmates may have it right -- prisons all about jobs Aug. 16, 2005

Prepared by the Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending

Parole Policies: Eligible lifers deserve fair face-to-face hearings

FREE PRESS EDITORIAL: Locked in to prison costs

State can save millions with safe alternatives to prison time

December 10, 2006

August 11, 2005

**Prisons: While pols work to 'save' prisons,
prison system buries taxpayers**

State needs professional parole board

Monday, July 18, 2005

In the process of making budgetary ends meet in Lansing, lawmakers have debated whether to close several of the smaller state prisons.

The inmates would not be freed but would be transferred to other facilities that already exceed their designed capacities. Small prisons, of course, have relatively high operational costs, as in employees per prisoner, and so are a tempting target for budget-cutters.

The Legislature, and the governor, could avoid such political squabbles by reinstating a professional parole board.

In the view of the Citizens Alliance for Prisons and Public Spending (CAPPS), at least 7,000 of the 49,000 state inmates could very safely be freed.

Internal managerial snafus have, as noted here before, kept many behind bars on technicalities.

But the biggest problem is that the current politically appointed parole board is too timid in freeing prisoners. When this type of board took over in 1992, the prison population promptly increased by about 10,000 because fewer were paroled.

No evidence has been offered that this made Michigan safer.

CAPPS calculates that to restore the rate of paroles to normal levels would save the taxpayers nearly \$150 million a year.

That is not to mention that it also would be a humane act.

Michigan's prison spending eats large hole in budget

David Eggert / Associated Press

January 21, 2007

Editorial

STATE PRISONS: Smart policy revisions can save state money

October 27, 2004

A statewide poll released Tuesday, conducted by EPIC-MRA for the Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending, found most residents — 75 percent — support spending less on incarceration and more on crime prevention. In fact, they ranked prisons last in state spending priorities.