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RULES  
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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**ARTHUR L. TURNER**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 9TH DISTRICT  
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER  
December 5, 2006

Ms. Jennifer Bishop  
315 Lockwood Avenue  
Northfield, IL 60093

Dear Jennifer:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the most recent hearing of the Long-term Prisoners Study Committee, and to assure you that the purpose of our work is not to secure the early or retroactive release of long-term inmates currently within state prisons. The goal of the committee is about researching ways to develop a more effective system of prison management that reduces the risk of the most serious offenders to society.

The Long-term Prisoners Study Committee was created by House Joint Resolution 80, for the purposes of studying and examining issues related to long-term prisoners sentenced to 30 or more years in the prison system. ***As you may be aware, a Resolution does not change statutory or constitutional law and is not approved or otherwise acted upon by the Governor (and thus is not a law). Thus, the Committee is purely research-based, and does not have any statutory authority to change any current laws or to release any life without parole inmates early.***

As the sponsors of the Resolution and Co-Chairs of the Committee, we have charged members of the Committee with developing research and recommendations through three subcommittees: 1) Programs; 2) Health Care; and 3) Indeterminately Sentenced Inmates. None of these subcommittees are charged with the task of addressing policies related to the early or retroactive release of long-term inmates, and any question of such early or retroactive release programs has been taken entirely off the table.

Through the work of the subcommittees, we have requested a statistical snapshot of the status of management of long-term inmates in the state prison system to ensure that the over \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars that are invested annually in the Illinois Department of Corrections are helping to reduce the risk to society among this population through effective health care, mental health counseling, programming and reentry services. In addition, we have asked for thorough study of the management of the indeterminately sentenced population of inmates.

Please know that public safety will always drive the work of this Committee.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Arthur L. Turner in black ink.

Representative Arthur Turner  
Co-Chair  
Long-term Prisoners Study Committee

Handwritten signature of Kwame Raoul in black ink.

Senator Kwame Raoul  
Co-Chair  
Long-term Prisoners Study Committee