



Californians United for a Responsible Budget

CURBPRISONSPENDING.ORG

1904 Franklin St., Ste. 504, Oakland, CA 94612 510.444.0484

Position Paper:

The Governor's 2007 Prison Expansion Proposal

CURB OPPOSES EXPANSION OF STATE PRISONS, JAILS, AND JUVENILE DETENTION, including the proposed 16,239 new state prison beds, 5,000-7,000 beds in new reentry prisons, 4,500 new jail beds, 4,350 new women's beds, any new beds for young people at the state or county levels, and expansion via 10,000 prison hospital beds. CURB believes people in prison do not receive adequate medical care, but is concerned that the new prison hospitals would be an expansion of the state prison system by 10,000 beds. CURB would not oppose an investment in medical infrastructure where people's stay is temporary and does not constitute freeing up and thereby increasing the number of existing beds. CURB maintains that the best place for people to receive medical care is out of prison and supports release and community treatment for people who do not pose a threat to public safety, including terminally ill and medically incapacitated people.

CURB SUPPORTS THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED PAROLE CHANGES.

California, unlike other states, places virtually everyone who gets out of prison on parole. We support the Governor's plan not to place every person on parole. We support the Governor's plan to discharge people from parole after 12 months without a violation, as is currently provided for in the law but not followed in practice.

CURB OPPOSES THE GOVERNOR'S SENTENCING COMMISSION PROPOSAL.

An effective sentencing commission would have to include people who have been in prison, public defenders, experts in harm reduction, and service providers for people returning home from prison. An effective commission must also be charged with the mandate to reduce the number people in prison and the number of prisons in the state, and be permanent, independent, and capable of enacting changes towards these goals.

CURB OPPOSES OUT OF STATE TRANSFERS.

Transferring people out of state is not a long term solution to this crisis. It further separates people from their families and raises numerous constitutional and legal issues.

CURB OPPOSES CUTS TO PROP 36.

CURB opposes cuts to the voter approved Proposition 36, which provides treatment rather than prison, for people convicted of certain drug offenses and has saved the state \$1.3 billion in just five years.