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There is concern about the need to open more Department of Correction (DoC) facilities in Colorado because of the overly large population in the DoC. We would very much like you to look at the possibility of allowing parole for low risk people who have been convicted of a sexual offense.

People with a sexual offense have an extremely low recidivism rate. Research shows that most will never commit a new sexual offense. And yet, it seems like a waste of human potential and money to continue to spend large amounts for housing people in DoC when they could re-enter the community, begin to rebuild their lives and progress in treatment outside of DoC.

Legislation has set criteria for progressing in treatment within DoC and in the community. The legislation as written says that an individual in DoC must progress in treatment to be considered for parole but the problem remains that far too many are ever offered the opportunity to have treatment and ultimately parole.

- a. 20,654 in the Department of Corrections – DCJ – Dec 2018
 5,110 sex offense inmates
 1,750 lifetime supervision offenders – Colorado Dept of Corrections Budget Hearing - Jan 2019

 804 lifetime supervision offender awaiting treatment – as of June 30, 2018
 440 lifetime supervision offenders in treatment – as of June 30, 2018
 144 lifetime supervision offender – met statutory and department criteria for treatment completion

 Cost to the State - \$36,000/offender/year; 1,231 on referral list – Report of the Colorado State Auditor (2016)
 Total: \$44,000,000/year for lifetime offenders that continue to be incarcerated – Report of the Colorado State Auditor (2016)

 ~ 1,400 awaiting treatment – does not include new admissions to DoC
 ~ 589 lifetime offenders in treatment - FY2018
 ~ 17 offenders per month complete treatment
- b. After years of waiting in DoC, many people still are not being moved for treatment because DoC does not have enough staff or placement beds. And not all facilities even offer treatment. In addition, many new people convicted of a sexual offense with shorter sentences continue to move ahead of people into treatment over those that have been waiting for years.

- c. People convicted of a sexual offense are placed on probation or sent to DoC. And by statute they are given either a determinate or indeterminate sentence. The crimes are not necessarily different but the decisions of the judges are. Outcomes are different based on sentencing but it doesn't say that one individual is any more dangerous than another. In addition, people on probation are receiving treatment in the community while under supervision and they are working and paying their way. Therefore, legislation could address the problem of not being allowed to get treatment while in prison or progress in prison by removing the requirement to progress before being considered for parole. Wouldn't it be beneficial to the community and the individual in prison to be released under supervision into the community for treatment as people on probation are?

- d. There is adequate treatment in the community and there seems to be no rational/logical reason based on risk to not allow people with a sex offense to be paroled especially since the risk level is so low for most.