

Senate Bill 14, Senator Anthony H. Williams

Dear Members of the Committee:

County Adult Probation & Parole Officer's throughout the Commonwealth are tasked with supervising members of society that have been sentenced to a term of probation or have been paroled from a county jail. Their crimes range from first offense DUI offenders to Sexually Violent Predators. Probation & Parole Officer's on a daily basis are ensuring that these offenders are in compliance with the terms and conditions of their probation or parole and many of these conditions are case specific and have been ordered for a particular reason. Whether it be enforcing a no contact order for a victim of domestic violence to prohibiting sex offenders from travelling to certain areas, should a technical violation become necessary, Probation & Parole officers are supremely knowledgeable of the offender and the specifics of the case and make appropriate sentencing recommendations based on those facts.

If this bill passes, the offender's will become aware that a first time technical violation will only lead to 30 days of imprisonment and as experience has shown, they will begin to test the waters. It is an almost near guarantee that this will be exploited and an already overburdened criminal justice system will become even more so as repeated technical violations will become necessary to ensure the protection of the community. Should a sex offender that was discharged from treatment for non-compliance only be limited to 30 days of imprisonment? Should we tell a victim of domestic violence that their abuser will be out of jail in mere weeks after violating a no-contact order? We all have an obligation to protect the needs of the community, more so even than that of the offender, and should this bill pass the erosion of that obligation will have begun.

Sincerely,

Paul Descano, President

PA FOP Criminal Investigators Lodge #92