



## **Help us reform mandatory minimum sentences in Massachusetts.**

Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM) is a national, nonpartisan organization working for fair and proportional sentencing laws. While we have been active in Massachusetts for over a decade, the current campaign was launched in earnest in 2007, in response to calls for an overhaul of the state's sentencing system by the Governor and legislative leadership.

## **Help us help your incarcerated client or family member. We need their stories.**

FAMM's most important tool for sentencing reform is its case profiles of prisoners who are currently serving excessive or unjust sentences. These brief profiles are used in our outreach materials to educate legislators and the public about the injustices of mandatory sentencing laws. We also use these profiles to find cases where a commutation of sentence may be appropriate. We are looking for state or federal prisoners in Mass. who fit most or all of these criteria:

- Non-violent drug offender;
- No gun involved;
- Played a minor role in the offense;
- First-time offender or few prior convictions;
- Excessive sentence: mandatory minimum, sentence over five years for a first-time offender, long sentence with no parole eligibility;
- Sentence increased because of school or park zone law;
- Prisoner accepts responsibility for the offense (no claims of innocence).

For clemency cases, we are looking for these additional criteria:

- Sentence of at least 10 years;
- Prisoner has served at least five years;
- Prisoner has shown extraordinary rehabilitation and good conduct;
- All legal remedies have been exhausted; no pending case or motion.

In order to identify potential cases, FAMM starts with a confidential **Case Summary Form**. If a case looks promising, we then work with the prisoner, his or her attorney and family members to gather information. We never use a profile unless the prisoner agrees and has approved it. For a copy of the Case Summary Form, please contact Massachusetts Project Director Barbara Dougan at [bdougan@famm.org](mailto:bdougan@famm.org) or (617) 543-0878.

- ▶ Send Case Summary Forms to Tom Burkert, FAMM, P.O. Box 15007, Lansing, MI 48901.
- ▶ For more information on our Case Profiles or Clemency Project, or to volunteer to work on a clemency case, please contact Molly Gill at [mgill@famm.org](mailto:mgill@famm.org) or (202) 822-6700.