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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55416

January 14, 2022

Kelly Lyn Mitchell, Chair  
Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission  
658 Cedar Street, Suite G-58  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

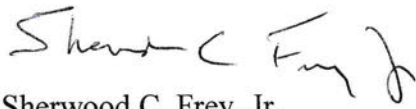
It was with relief when I read today that the Commission has deferred its vote on the continued reduction in the custody-status aspect of the sentencing scoring system. May I urge the Commission to avoid reducing its importance any further, but rather increase custody-status to its former full point in the sentencing formula.

A simple maxim of human nature is that people avoid actions for which they know and believe they will be punished. Our child-rearing experiences certainly support this proposition. When parolees violate the public trust that has been conferred to them by the granting of parole, punishment needs to strengthen, not weakened. These criminals need to learn that their behavior is unacceptable in a civilized society. Lessening of punishment is tantamount to condoning repeat criminal behavior.

In addition, parolees who commit an additional crime are *de facto* indicating that they are "committed" criminals from whom society needs to be protected. When such individuals are returned to society, public confidence in the rule of law is weakened and the quality of our life is reduced.

Please take actions that enhance Minnesota as an attractive place to live and raise our families.

Sincerely,



Sherwood C. Frey, Jr.