

SAMPLE LETTER INSTRUCTIONS

Send Comments on Prop 57 Regulations!

Letters must be received by September 1st, 2017 before 5pm

CDCR has proposed regulations that will create the non-violent parole process and award credits under Prop 57. **Your input is needed to shape these important rules.** Below is a sample letter that will help guide you through the process of making your voice heard on how Prop 57 will work!

IT'S EASY TO USE THIS SAMPLE LETTER

If you have it in Word or Text format, you can change it.
If it is a PDF, you'll need to type or write it out yourself.

THREE EASY STEPS

1. **Fill in the blanks!** Add in (1) the date, (2) your name, address, and email, and (3) Go each place where there is black text and add in your thoughts. (4) Add any other reasons or comments you want to give. **Erase all the red!**
2. **Sign at the end of the letter.**
3. **Send by US mail, fax, or email.**

Two choices for sending:

Human Rights Watch will send the letter for you

Send us your letter, and we'll get it to the right person. You can send it to Human Rights Watch via fax (310-477-4622) or by email (send to estradi@hrw.org with the subject line: "Prop 57 Regulations Comments")

OR

You can send the letter yourself to:

Timothy M. Lockwood
Associate Director
Regulation and Policy Management Branch
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
PO Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

By email: CDCR-Prop57-Comments@cdcr.ca.gov

By fax: (916) 324-6075

DATE

YOUR ADDRESS

Timothy M. Lockwood
Associate Director
Regulation and Policy Management Branch
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
PO Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

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Email: CDCR-Prop57-Comments@cdcr.ca.gov

RE: Proposition 57 Regulations

Dear Mr. Lockwood:

I am writing to provide comments on the Prop 57 regulations. **[Write one line about yourself.]**

Ideas:

Describe where you live, or you work, organizations you are involved with, your family, or your experience with crime.

Examples:

"My wife and I run our own business in the San Fernando Valley." Or,

"I am a mother of four, and grandmother of three." Or,

"I am an attorney practicing in San Mateo, where I am active in the Democratic Party." Or,

"I work at a nursery and am involved in my children's school as a volunteer." Or,

"I am a survivor of violent crime and active in my community."

I am concerned about these regulations because **[Finish this sentence with a short statement about why you are interested in the regulations.]**

Ideas:

Did you vote for Prop 57? Did you help collect signatures or otherwise work on Prop 57?

Do you have experience being incarcerated and seeking rehabilitation?

Do you a loved one who is incarcerated and will be affected?

Do you work with incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals?

Do you have personal experience with education, vocational training or rehabilitative programming?

Examples:

"I voted for Prop 57 and I want to be sure that it is fair." Or,

"I worked to collect signatures for Prop 57 and I believe that it should help as many people as possible." Or,

*“I was formerly incarcerated and I understand the importance of hope and rehabilitation.” Or,
“I have a loved one serving a long sentence and I want to be sure that Prop 57 incentivizes as many people as possible to change.”*

There are several things about the proposed regulations that I was very happy to hear about.

[Here, make a statement about what they are getting right. It’s important we let the administration know we support the good things the regulations will do.]

Ideas:

What is good about the Prop 57 regulations?

Why is it good?

Examples:

“I understand that CDCR plans to award credits for participation in inmate-led groups (Achievement Credits); increase credits for more difficult achievements (Enhanced Milestone Credits); increase the ways that lifers can earn credits. I believe this is a good policy because it will help people have several ways to earn credits and get the tools they need to be successful when released.”

I understand that the regulations will **[Here, write what you would like to give comments on.]**

I suggest instead that **[Here, give your ideas for something different and state why.]**

Ideas:

What would you like to see changed in the Prop 57 regulations?

Why should it be changed? – You may want to give an example.

We suggest three key points to make in letters:

- (1) The proposed regulations should apply new program credits to people who prior to Prop 57 were dedicated to rehabilitation.**

There is no reason why benefits of Prop. 57 should not apply retroactively to cover genuine rehabilitation programming in the past.

- (2) The proposed regulations should not exclude people who are serving life sentences under the Three Strikes law for nonviolent crimes.**

Prop. 57 promised to apply to all nonviolent prisoners.

- (3) The proposed regulations should not exclude young people eligible for parole under SB 260 and 261, the Youth Offender Parole law.**

At its core, Prop. 57 promised to correct over incarceration of young people and encourage positive rehabilitative programming—there is no justifiable reason to undermine the positive reforms of SB 260 and 261.

[We encourage you to add your own concerns. Remember that the more a letter is your own, and written in your voice, the more powerful it will be to those writing the regulations. Your letter can be short! One page is fine.]

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

SIGN HERE

cc: Human Rights Watch Fax: 310.477.4622