

[ Date ]

Dear [ Senator / Representative ]

I am contacting you regarding my concerns with the Pennsylvania Post Conviction Relief Act (PCRA). I understand that the PCRA excludes those who are wrongfully convicted of a crime from proving their innocence if they are no longer serving a sentence. Further this act fails to relieve unjustly convicted people from the collateral consequences of their conviction. Innocent people lose their rights to possess a firearm, to hold public office, or serve in the military. They may lose parental rights, be restricted in employment, face deportation, or a lifetime registration as a sex offender.

Advances in criminal investigations continually bring new evidence to light years down the road, often well beyond the term of one's incarceration. There should be no exemption from bringing that evidence forward. The PCRA also obstructs justice by leaving actual criminals escape their day in court while another serves their sentence. Further it encourages corrupt public servants to bury their mal practice in a legal loophole.

Efforts had been made by Senator Greenleaf to eliminate the exemption of the PCRA that require a wrongfully convicted person to be currently serving a sentence; thereby allowing new evidence to be argued in court at the time it is discovered. I ask that you review the failures of the PCRA and work towards bringing a solution forward in the legislator.

Sincerely,

[ Name ]

[ Address ]