

To whom it concerns: I am writing to express why I support Second Look and what it would mean to me. I believe Second Look is needed because current sentencing based on a snap-shot of a person's life at their worst time does not mean that is who they are or will be for the rest of their lives. There is no doubt that I needed to come to prison when I did for the crimes I committed. What I did was heinous and unforgivable. That being said, prison gave me the opportunity to learn much needed life skills and coping skills I was not able to acquire growing up in the dysfunctional environment I did. I was also able to get the mental health treatment for issues I did not even know I had, PTSD, Major Clinical Depression, and Anxiety Disorder. The more I learned, the more I realized how messed up my belief system was and how wrong my thoughts were. Unfortunately, due to the mandatory life without parole sentence I was given, none of it matters because as far as everyone else is concerned they have the same person locked up that committed the crimes thirty-one years ago. That person is not who is incarcerated now and hasn't been for sometime. I have been working with dogs in multiple programs for seven years and it has really taught me what is truly important and what matters most. I never once got angry with the dogs even after being bit on four occasions. That made me think, "If I still loved and enjoyed the dogs without lashing out at them biting me, how could I ever harm innocent people for nothing? How could I hurt anyone? I can't! I won't!" I see guys in here I've known for years and how they are dying from cancer and various other illnesses and I feel sad for them and the suffering they are going through. There are guys that can barely move, on walkers and wheelchairs and that makes me sad as well. I know I put myself here by what I done but I feel like I am paying for a crime someone else did (the old me) because he is gone now. A Second Look will give me a chance to that without minimizing my guilt or my crimes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Roberto Casanova