

# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

*"Protection, Service & Accountability"*

Main Office (805) 781-5300 ~ 2176 Johnson Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Juvenile Services Center (805) 781-5352 ~ 1065 Kansas Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Juvenile Hall (805) 781-5389 ~ 1065 Kansas Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

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Kim Barrett  
Chief Probation Officer

Myron Nalepa  
Assistant Chief

March 27, 2007

Senator Abel Maldonado  
State Capitol  
Room 4082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Maldonado:

I am writing to urge your strong support for funding of adult probation currently proposed in the Governor's budget and urge that it be discussed as part of the short term and long term reform solutions to our prison crisis.

The Governor has proposed \$50 million in fiscal year 07-08 increasing to \$100 million in subsequent years to target the treatment and supervision needs for the 18-25 year old offender population sentenced to probation. This age group makes up the largest offender population entering into the state prison system. By addressing an offender's treatment needs and risk levels at the front end of the system, California can be confident in saying we are tackling true corrections reform.

This money is critical for both public safety and rehabilitation. A probation officer not only supervises these offenders in our community they also ensure that offenders stay with their treatment programs (such as, substance abuse, mental health, vocational training to name a few). Without the supervision both public safety and rehabilitation efforts are at risk and add to our prison population.

The funding proposed will eventually pay for itself and soon save the state money. There are more than 300,000 offenders currently sentenced to adult probation with only approximately 1450 probation officers to monitor and work with them. Of that number approximately 30% are 18-25 years old and therefore the target of this funding. If we stop just 1,000 offenders on probation from going to state prison the program pays for itself. We commit to you we can do that and more. Our success with juvenile offenders demonstrates probation's ability to improve lives and public safety when we are appropriately funded.

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Approximately 90% of offenders convicted of a felony are sentenced to probation. There are over 225,000 adult felons on probation today. It is critical to address this population to improve the lives in our communities but also to be sure we can be part of the short term and long term solution to the capacity crisis facing the state prison system.

I appreciate your support and am available to you if you would like to discuss further. You may also contact our Executive Director, Karen Pank or Legislative Advocate, Nick Warner at (916) 447-2762 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Barrett  
Chief Probation Officer  
[kbarret@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:kbarret@co.slo.ca.us)

cc: Senator Perata  
Senator Ackerman  
Assemblyman Nunez  
Assemblyman Villines