

To whom it may concern,

Hello my name is Maribel Santiago. I am here on behalf of my brother Firlando Rivera. At this moment, Firlando is incarcerated at John J. Moran Medium Security Facility in Cranston, Rhode Island. He is serving a 20-year life sentence, with parole plus an additional 20 years to be served consecutively. In January of 2021, my brother went before the parole board and was granted parole on his first effort. A true sign of the changes he's made and the work he has put in to be a better person. Even though he has to serve another 20 years, this was an incredible step forward for Firlando. In 2025 his parole was taken away due to a new law. His sentence was recalculated and now he will not be eligible for parole until he serves the sentence in its entirety.

Firlando is not the same young kid he once was when he made those decisions so long ago. In the past 28 years that he has been incarcerated, he has changed for the better. He works very hard to be a better person, not only for him, but for his family and his community. Firlando has spent many years being a mentor to other inmates, young men like him who followed down a similar path. To show that they can do the work to become better people for their own families and for their communities. Firlando has also had the opportunity to train service dogs for people with disabilities. This takes time and patience and knowing that the service dogs he works with will be an excellent, life-saving companion to someone who truly needs it is what drives my brother to continue to be the best he can be.

My family and I are ready for Firlando to come home. We are committed to

ensuring he has the resources he needs to be successful while reintegrating back into everyday life. His work to better himself and those around him will only continue when he is back home with the people that love him most. Currently, we are deeply concerned about my brother's health. Firlando has suffered from diabetes for more than 10 years now. He struggles with his condition daily due to not having access to proper nutrition. As you know, Someone with diabetes must maintain a balanced diet to keep their blood sugar stabilized. The facility that my brother is in does not place a priority on inmates' health and the poor excuse for food being served is what causes his diabetes to be out of control.

Now I'd like to talk to you as a tax paying citizen of Rhode Island,

Mario's Law in theory was meant to give young people serving life sentences, the opportunity at a second chance. Although some were granted that second chance, the majority were not. My brother Firlando is one of those who has his second chance taken away. After his parole was granted, this law passed. It was then that his sentences was recalculated, and his parole was taken away. So many people lost faith in this justice system after such injustice was served to those in this community. Not only does this affect those serving the time, but their family as well.

I would like to personally invite you to meet my brother Firlando, spend time with him and listen to his story. Listen to his ownership of his bad decisions from many years ago and hear about all the work he is doing to be a better member of this community. He deserves the second chance that his granted parole was going to give him.

We want this wrong to be right.

We want the second chance.

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter and take this second look into consideration.

Maribel Santiago

