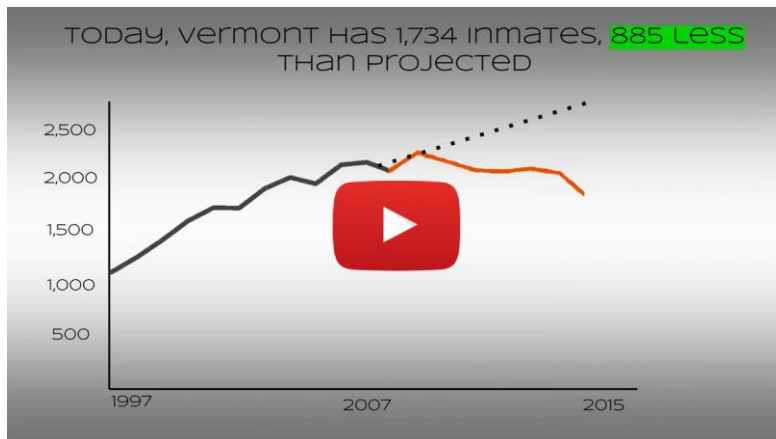


From: Gov. Peter Shumlin [governorvt@vermont.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 3:35 PM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: 885 Fewer Inmates

Dear Scott,

Vermont's inmate population was projected to reach 2,619 by November 2015. Today, Vermont has 1,734 inmates, 885 less than projected.



How'd we reverse the trend? By taking meaningful steps to create a more rational criminal justice system. We launched a War on Recidivism; we're now offering treatment instead of jail to low-level, non-violent offenders suffering from addiction; we've expanded Vermont's expungement law to help past offenders with good behavior clear their records; and by giving Vermonters who have had their licenses suspended an affordable way to get them reinstated and banning the box on employment applications to avoid automatically screening those with a criminal record out of a job opportunity, we are giving Vermonters a chance to get back on the right side of the law and move their lives forward.

When I first ran for Governor I made reforming the criminal justice system a priority because it is the right thing to do. I also said doing so would save us money and allow us to invest in things like early childhood education, which we know to reduce the likelihood that someone will land in jail later in life. It costs \$62,000 per year to house an inmate in Vermont. By reversing the trend on incarceration rates, we are saving tens of millions of dollars. And next year, Vermont will become the first state in America to guarantee access to pre-k education to every three and four year old. That's progress.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor
109 State Street, Pavilion

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802-828-3333

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