FAMM GRAM

Are you seeing FAMM listed in any magazines or other resources? If so, we'd like to know so we can connect with them. Let us know by writing to:
FAMM
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Washington, D.C. 20005
or emailing famm@famm.org.

A Letter From FAMM President, Dr. Shaneva D. McReynolds

Dear FAMM Family,

Thirty-five years ago, FAMM began with a simple but powerful conviction: **Sentences should be fair, families should have a voice, and people should never be reduced to the worst decision they have made.**

As we approach our 35th anniversary, I have been thinking a great deal about that legacy — not simply how far we have come, but how much work remains before us.

This issue of the FAMMgram tells that story.

Across the country, our team is working to change laws, improve prison conditions, strengthen independent oversight, expand opportunities for release, and challenge policies that impose punishment without regard for proportionality, rehabilitation, or redemption. Some of that work produces victories we can celebrate immediately. Some requires us to return to legislatures year after year. And some demands that we remind policymakers, again and again, that behind every statute, guideline, and sentence is a human being — and a family serving that sentence alongside them.

That is especially true as we turn our attention toward Washington this fall.

The First Step Act changed federal law in important ways, including reforms to the extraordinarily harsh penalties imposed under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) and § 851. But for too many people sentenced before those reforms, the "first step" stopped short. They remain in prison serving sentences that Congress itself has since determined should no longer be imposed in the same way today.

We believe Congress should finish what it started.

This November, more than 50 family members and formerly incarcerated people will come to Washington, D.C., to carry that message directly to lawmakers. They will walk the halls of Congress not as statistics or case numbers, but as mothers, fathers, spouses, children, neighbors, taxpayers, and people who have experienced firsthand what excessive sentences do to families and communities.

That is the heart of FAMM's advocacy — and it has been for 35 years.

Stories change what statistics alone cannot.

You will see that truth throughout this issue, including in Terrance Stanton's powerful reflection on receiving a second chance while his friend Donald Shealey remains incarcerated. His story raises a question that should challenge all of us: If we say we believe people can change, are our laws and systems willing to recognize when they do?

Second chances cannot simply be something we talk about. Redemption has to mean something in practice.

As we enter this next chapter of FAMM's history, I want our families and members to understand that you are not on the sidelines of this work. You are the work. Your experiences help us show lawmakers what policy looks like when it reaches a kitchen table, a prison visiting room, a child's life, or a family waiting years for someone to come home.

So I am asking you to continue sharing your stories with us. If your family has been impacted by a pre-First Step Act § 924(c) or § 851 sentence, we need to hear from you. If extreme heat or other prison conditions have affected someone you love, tell us. And as we celebrate 35 years of FAMM, share your memories, photographs, artwork, and stories about what this organization and this movement have meant to you.

Thirty-five years of advocacy has taught us something important: **Change rarely happens because someone in power suddenly decides the system should be different. Change happens because ordinary people refuse to stop showing up and demanding that it be different.**

That is how FAMM began.

That is how we have helped change laws across this country.

And with your voices beside ours, that is how we will continue the work ahead.

With gratitude and determination,

Dr. Shaneva D. McReynolds
President, FAMM



FAMM | 35 YEARS EST 1991

Updates on Federal Legislative Work

As many of you may recall, the Supreme Court recently shut the door to compassionate release based on non-retroactive sentencing changes from the First Step Act. People who are serving long sentences under 18 U.S.C § 924(c) and § 851, sentences that would be much shorter if those people were sentenced today, can no longer use that basis to reduce their federal sentences. We are urging Congress to make the sentencing changes from the First Step Act relating to 924(c)s and 851s retroactive so that everyone can benefit from those changes in the law. In November, we are bringing more than 100 family members of people in prison and formerly incarcerated people to D.C. to talk directly to lawmakers about this very important issue. If you have a pre-First Step Act 924(c) or 851 sentence that would be shorter today, we want to hear your story! Please write to us and let us know how you would benefit if this legal change was made retroactive.

Updates From the Office of General Counsel

United States Sentencing Commission

The U.S. Sentencing Commission has proposed five priorities for its 2026-2027 amendment cycle. The first would undertake a broad review of the federal sentencing guidelines and sentencing practices as the Guidelines approach their 40th anniversary and after two decades of advisory guidelines. The second would comprehensively review the Commission's own Rules of Practice and Procedure, including what Commission business and policymaking materials should be public, how the public and stakeholders can participate, and what research and analysis the Commission should make available. The remaining priorities are more open-ended: addressing changes in legislation and case law, resolving conflicts among federal courts of appeals, and considering other issues that come to the Commission's attention. The Commission has also specifically invited commenters to suggest additional priorities, specific guideline amendments, and research agendas.

FAMM responded to these priorities reminding the Commission of its obligation to consider the impact of any amendment on the Bureau of Prisons. In other words, guideline amendments should not add increased pressure or longer sentences to a prison system that is already in crisis.

The Commission work is particularly important right now. On August 5, 2026, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on President Trump's nominations of Judge John Cronan and Jason Manion to serve as Commissioners on the U.S. Sentencing Commission. They have not yet had a vote to advance their position, so we do not know if they will end up being on the Commission, but it seems very likely. For FAMM, the arrival of new Commissioners makes this an especially important moment to remind the Commission of whose lives its work affects.

State Legislative Updates

Though many states' legislative sessions ended in the spring and early summer, FAMM's work to advance sentencing reform, second look laws, and independent prison oversight and to oppose bills that would impose harsher sentences did not stop. Our state policy staff leverages this time to develop relationships with lawmakers, build partnerships with advocates on the ground, and mobilize our members inside prisons and in the community. We're excited to hit the ground running in states where sessions resume in January, and to continue our advocacy in states with longer one- and two-year sessions. Here's a round-up of our state work this season.

ALABAMA *Legislative session: January 13 - March 27, 2026* This session, FAMM worked with Alabama partners to advance independent prison oversight legislation. Instead, Alabama Senator Larry Stutts — who had introduced two bills, SB84 and SB316, addressing some of these concerns — negotiated with the Alabama Department of Corrections to withdraw both bills. In exchange, the state will launch a pilot program at the women's prison and one or two men's prisons to determine whether independent prison oversight is necessary in Alabama. FAMM believes the need is already clear, but we will continue to advocate as the pilot moves forward. We are also encouraged that Alabama's outgoing Attorney General and Governor are leaving office due to term limits, and we're hopeful that their successors will be more receptive partners on this issue. **ARIZONA *Legislative session: January 12 - April 25, 2026*** Advancing reform legislation is difficult in an election year with significant state fiscal challenges. FAMM worked closely with partners, legislators, government officials, and family members to push our policy priorities forward. While we're disappointed that key legislation, including funding of the Independent Corrections Ombuds Office and Early Release/Electronic Home Confinement, failed to pass, we feel that progress was made. The Home Confinement bill advanced further through the legislative process than in prior years and was never voted down; it simply didn't receive a floor vote before the session ended. We remain confident in the bipartisan support for this bill. Funding for the Independent Corrections Ombuds Office passed both the House and Senate with strong bipartisan support, but state fiscal challenges kept the appropriation out of the final budget. FAMM will continue to fight alongside our partner advocates and families until this office is funded and open. This year also brought a federal receivership over Arizona's prison healthcare system. Annette Chambers-Smith, former director of Ohio's prison system, will oversee it for the next five years, with broad authority to hire medical staff, control the budget, and make any policy changes needed to bring the system into constitutional compliance. Additionally, the Arizona Board of Executive Clemency's vacancies have been filled. We look forward to a reduction in the backlog now that the Board is full. Our impacted FAMMily members have played a key role in driving this work forward. Our Arizona network consistently responds to digital actions, making your voices heard in committee hearings, across the full legislature, and in the Governor's office. Every time you use FAMM digital actions to contact your lawmakers, it makes a real difference. Please share this link with your friends and family to help amplify our voices in Arizona! https://famm.org/for-fammilies/#connect-with-us **Florida *Legislative Session: January 13 - March 13, 2026*** While session has ended and Florida is gearing up for primaries, Florida Cares continues to push for humane prison conditions during the extreme heat. Incarcerated people now have a Summer Heat Directive which includes iced water kegs being placed in each dorm for extra cold drinking water, lights being turned off during the day, allowing incarcerated people to wear shorts and t-shirts while in their dorms even during inspections and official visits. This directive will run the entire summer until September 30th, 2026. At Florida Cares we are always working together to make a difference through our prison concern ticket system. Every week loved ones and incarcerated individuals submit concerns through Florida Cares ticket system. While Florida Cares cannot solve every issue, these updates are a reminder that respectful advocacy, persistence, and collaboration can produce meaningful results. **GEORGIA *Legislative session: January 12 - April 2, 2026*** Georgia's 2026 legislative session ended with the passage of a four-strikes bill and no major successes in sentencing reform. House Bill 1075 requires that a fourth conviction for specified misdemeanors be elevated to a felony offense, carrying a mandatory minimum sentence of not less than one year and not more than ten years imprisonment. While it was a challenging year legislatively, the work continues! FAMM will be working alongside coalition members in Georgia in the coming months to prepare for the 2027 session. Advocates across Georgia state are powerful voices for reform, and FAMM is proud to support their work. **HAWAI'I *Legislative session: January 21- May 8, 2026*** Last session FAMM worked closely with state agencies and community members to introduce compassionate release legislation. The companion bills in the House and Senate both made it all the way through to conference committee, thanks to the wonderful support of stakeholders including former corrections officers, survivors, Native Hawaiian leaders, and faith communities. Although the bill didn't pass, we will reintroduce it this coming session and work to get it across the finish line. FAMM is holding a lobby day in Hawai'i in December! In addition to this policy work, FAMM has paired people who need compassionate release with pro bono volunteers, resulting in the release of several people in the last few months. **ILLINOIS *Veto session: Nov 17-19 + Dec 1-3, 2026*** FAMM is delighted to welcome our Prison Oversight Specialist, Al Ameen Siddique, who we have hired to advance our work in bringing a Correctional Ombudsman to Illinois. With his experience in both the IDOC and the federal systems, filing successful grievances, winning lawsuits and bringing an expert insider perspective on what really needs oversight, we are hopeful about advancing the best possible bill to establish independent prison oversight in IL. Credit for Change remains a priority in the state. Leading up to next legislative session, we'll be working to highlight the importance of Credit for Change—and we need your help! Please email our Vice President of Policy, Katrina Baugh, at kbaugh@famm.org to join the effort. **IOWA *Legislative session: January 12 - April 21, 2026*** In 2025, FAMM began working to establish medical release in Iowa, the only state in the country without a compassionate release mechanism. This year, we deepened our partnership with advocates, and FAMM policy staff made three lobbying trips to meet with lawmakers, press the urgent need for medical release, strengthen key relationships, and testify in support of HSB 314. The bill passed out of the House committee by a vote of 20-0. However, Iowa Legislative Services was overburdened with bills, and the administrative process required to transfer it to the Senate wasn't completed in time. We are deeply dismayed that this important legislation failed due to technical delays beyond our control. During the 2026 session, FAMM opposed HF 2542, a habitual offender bill that would create a mandatory minimum 20-year sentence. Advocates couldn't stop the bill, but the final version is significantly less draconian than the original proposal. Still, the legislation will have devastating effects on the state and Iowa families. With the prison system already 26% over capacity and critically understaffed, this bill will expand the prison population by 50% within a few short years. Meeting that influx requires three new prisons, which the state cannot build in time. We hope Iowa repeals this legislation before too much damage is done. If you have a loved one dealing with medical issues while incarcerated, please write to us (Attention: Iowa) or share their story here: https://famm.org/for-fammilies/#share-your-story.

State Legislative Updates, continued

LOUISIANA ***Legislative session: March 9 – June 1, 2026*** FAMM partnered with the Department of Corrections this session to introduce HB 399, legislation that would extend the life expectancy requirement for DOC-based compassionate release. We are grateful this bill passed and went into effect August 1! FAMM has also matched people in need of compassionate release with pro bono representation to advocate for their release**. MAINE** ***Legislative session: January 7 – April 15, 2026*** FAMM has a unique ability in Maine to not only work with state partners in the communities, but also with a very passionate group of incarcerated advocates. In 2026, FAMM supported efforts to re-establish parole, expand the supervised community confinement program, and establish a corrections ombudsman office. These bills did not pass as written, but we're proud that progress was achieved through compromise. We continue working with a strong coalition of advocates, both inside prison and in the community, to prepare for next year. **MICHIGAN** ***Legislative session: January 14 – December 31, 2026*** The Michigan State Legislature is experiencing a historically slow and unproductive year in 2026, driven by partisanship and a focus on upcoming elections. Still, FAMM and state partners have worked tirelessly to advance a range of reforms and educate lawmakers. One priority is SB 895, a bill to reform the state's habitual sentencing enhancement laws. These laws often result in lengthy prison sentences without improving public safety. FAMM is also part of a coalition supporting legislation to ensure that survivors of domestic or sexual violence are not given excessive sentences as a direct result of their abuse. **MISSOURI** ***Legislative session: January 7 – May 15, 2026*** This session SB 888, a transparency in sentencing bill, limited FAMM's ability to work on earned and good time credit legislation. SB 888 requires judges to state on the record the mandatory minimum and maximum parole eligibility dates for each defendant, based on the class of felony committed. We are looking for pathways to advance earned and good time credits in future sessions. **NEVADA** ***Legislative session: February 2 – July, 28 2025*** Nevada holds legislative sessions biennially in odd-numbered years. However, in even-numbered years, committees made up of lawmakers from both the Assembly and Senate come together to hear from key stakeholders and decide on priorities for the next session. FAMM had the opportunity to present to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on the Judiciary in July and set forth recommendations to improve the state's compassionate release mechanisms. We look forward to continuing to serve as a resource to the Committee and advising on release mechanisms for elderly and ill incarcerated individuals. We also use this time to continue developing relationships with partners on the ground and around the country, in preparation to renew our efforts for second look in the 2027 legislative session. **NEW JERSEY** ***Legislative session: January 13 – December 31, 2026*** New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy continued to lead on clemency in 2025. FAMM is overjoyed for each person who received a pardon or commutation through Governor Murphy's historic clemency effort. We are hopeful that incoming Governor Mikie Sherrill will build on this momentum and keep New Jersey at the forefront of state clemency efforts. FAMM continues to monitor the legislature for opportunities to support second chances and oppose harmful bills. We encourage the advancement of an expansive second look bill in the state's General Assembly that would allow all incarcerated individuals to seek relief, regardless of conviction type or sentence length. FAMM is also supporting legislative efforts to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for certain drug-related offenses and to create mitigating opportunities for survivors of abuse who are prosecuted for offenses against their abusers. These reforms were recommended by New Jersey's Criminal Sentencing and Disposition Commission. **NORTH DAKOTA** ***Legislative session: January 7, 2025 – May 3, 2025*** The 69th Assembly in North Dakota ended with the passage of three bills aimed at recovery, reentry, and reducing recidivism. House Bill 1425 established a pilot program in three counties to support State's Attorneys' offices that operate diversion programs, clarifies the use of deflection practices, and calls for an updated evaluation of outcomes and cost savings from the DCR's Pretrial Services Program. House Bill 1417 added and updated key criminal justice definitions to help agencies improve cross-system collaboration and data collection, while also eliminating some fees. House Bill 1549 aims to better prepare people leaving jails and prisons to return to their communities and remain there safely, rather than cycling back into the criminal system. North Dakota holds legislative sessions biennially in odd-numbered years. FAMM will be working alongside coalition members in North Dakota in the coming months to prepare for the 70th Assembly in 2027. Advocates across North Dakota state are powerful voices for reform, and FAMM is proud to support their work. **PENNSYLVANIA** ***Legislative session: January 6 – November 30, 2026*** The Pennsylvania General Assembly took nearly a year beyond its deadline to pass a state budget, stalling progress on many FAMM supported bills and initiatives. Now that a budget has passed, FAMM is eager to resume our work with the legislature on important issues. Foremost on everyone's mind is the State Supreme Court's decision that mandatory life without parole sentences for second-degree felony murder is unconstitutional. The legislature has yet to reach a solution and continues negotiating between House and Senate versions of the bill. Because the legislature failed to remedy state law within the 120 days the Court gave them, there is much confusion. FAMM will continue fighting alongside our partners on behalf of Pennsylvania families and will do our best to keep you informed. FAMM continues to support HB 150, which has passed the House and would expand access to medical release for incarcerated individuals with certain chronic or terminal conditions. We also support HB 1550, which would create age-based relief for incarcerated people over the age of 50 who have served half their minimum sentence or 25 years, whichever is less. FAMM proudly supports HB 1506, which would make communications free for incarcerated individuals in Pennsylvania. We're also interested in three House Resolutions that would improve conditions in the state's correctional facilities: HR 36 would commission a study on prison library quality; HR 59 would designate November 1, 2025, as "State Correctional Institution Day" and encourage lawmakers to make unannounced prison visits at least twice a year; and HR 189 would commission a study on the nutritional value of food served in SCIs and its effects on people's health. FAMM also continues to monitor and oppose legislation containing mandatory sentences. **TENNESSEE** ***Legislative session: January 13, 2026 – April 24, 2026*** This session, FAMM successfully defended against a three-strikes, repeat offender bill championed by Tennessee House Speaker Sexton. We were also proud to work with Representative Davis to craft and advance a bill to collect data on compassionate release, specifically geriatric and medical furloughs, which the governor signed into law. FAMM continues to urge the governor to make greater use of executive clemency, particularly given that this is his final term due to term limits. **VIRGINIA** ***Legislative session: January 14 – March 14, 2026*** Virginia's legislative session wrapped up in March, and legislators have since turned their attention to the upcoming elections. Still, FAMM and our state partners have used this time to regroup and strategize for 2027. We're excited to renew our efforts to create opportunities for incarcerated Virginians to seek sentence reviews and to work toward a more fair and effective justice system.

Stories in Your Corner

FAMM Employee Spotlight: Travis Edwards

As many of you know, FAMM is a very small but mighty staff. This month, we sadly say goodbye to our Visual Engagement Coordinator, Travis Edwards. You may not have known it, but for years you had an amazing champion out here fighting for you in Travis. For eight years, he has been responsible for FAMM's visual, video, and graphic storytelling. Travis has met many of your family members, and he connects to this work and our community with a huge, compassionate heart. A gifted filmmaker, Travis was responsible for our feature-length documentary, *District of Second Chances*, as well as *The Vanishing Trial*. Add to that countless short videos, infographics, illustrations, and audio stories. And that doesn't even come close to what Travis has brought to this work that can't be measured: a passion for justice, deep wells of compassion and care, creativity, and a tremendous work ethic. Travis is leaving FAMM now for what we know will be a great career in social work. They are lucky to have him!

As Travis steps away, it reminds us that visual storytelling is so important. Are you a visual artist? If so, please send us your visual artwork if you'd like. We would love to see it. And please let us know if you are ok with us sharing it publicly and if so, should we credit you with your name, initials, or anonymously? We can't promise to share everything we get, but we are eager to see it in any case.

The story below is from a longtime FAMM member. Terrance's journey and his insight into the need for our continued fight for reform - for his friend Donald and all of you - is an inspiration. Please read and let us know what you think.

My life didn't truly begin until I was sentenced to life in prison. Before incarceration, I didn't understand the value of time, loved ones, or freedom. Having those things stripped away changed my perspective and forced me to reevaluate my priorities. My name is Terrance Stanton. In 2013, I was sentenced to life in prison for my involvement in a drug conspiracy. In 2015, my sentence was reduced to 30 years and five months because of changes in drug laws. In 2024, it was reduced again to 27 years because of changes to sentencing status points. Then, in 2025, President Joe Biden commuted my sentence to 220 months. My story is about second chances — the opportunity to return to society with greater awareness, discipline, and purpose.

While fighting my case, I took courses, facilitated classes, became a study group coordinator for Islamic services, and earned a paralegal certificate. During that time, I met men committed to changing their lives. Donald Shealey was one of them. I first met Donald in 2017. He was serving a life sentence for a drug offense committed in 2008. For months, we saw each other in visitation and the law library before we finally spoke.

One day in the library, I asked a jailhouse lawyer about a case I had been searching for. Before he could answer, Donald had already found it on the computer and motioned for me to come over. From that moment, we built a bond.

Every morning, we exchanged ideas about challenging our sentences. We talked about the weight of lengthy prison terms and the realities of the court system, but we also talked about returning home and rebuilding our lives. I remember preparing to get married while incarcerated. Donald reminded me that love requires action, especially toward the people who remain by your side during difficult times. I carried those words with me and worked to become more patient and appreciative of the people who supported me.

Even after I transferred to another prison, we stayed in touch. Eventually, we exhausted our appeals, leaving clemency as our last hope. Together, we started a petition to bring attention to our cases and included signatures from supporters in our clemency packets, hoping the president would recognize what so many others already believed — that our sentences were unjust.

In 2020, we thought we might finally come home. When the clemency list was released and neither of our names appeared, it was devastating. Still, we remained hopeful and continued applying. By 2025, our wives were calling to say, "They're supposed to release the list today. We hope both your names are on it."

When the list was finally released, my name was on it, but Donald's was not. Even then, he sent me a message that said, "My brother, I'm happy for you. I know you're not going to waste this opportunity." The moment was bittersweet. I was grateful for my second chance, but I wished he had received one, too. I promised I would help him however I could once I was released.

Donald has been incarcerated for 18 years. Throughout that time, he has remained connected to his nine children, maintained his relationship with his fiancée, and stayed close to his mother, whom he has not seen in more than 16 years because of her medical condition.

To me, a second chance is not about ignoring what someone has done. It is about recognizing who they have become. There are countless people in prison whose only hope for release is clemency — people who have changed, grown, and prepared themselves to live differently, yet remain overlooked. If the purpose of the justice system is truly rehabilitation, then there must also be room for redemption. This story is not just about me. It represents what is possible when transformation is acknowledged. I was given a second chance, and I believe Donald Shealey has earned one, too.

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary this year, FAMM is looking back at some of the notable milestones and reform victories in which we had a part. We're proud of the work and deeply grateful to the countless FAMM members who shared their stories, such as the one below, and made it happen. We published this story before passage of the Federal Prison Oversight Act on July 25, 2024. The legislation created a new inspections standard for the Bureau of Prisons and established an independent Ombudsman to handle complaints and monitor prison conditions. Dwayne's story, and many like it that FAMM shared, brought light to the desperate need for oversight.

FAMM Milestones at 35: Oversight

No Showers, No Calls, Nothing but Cornflakes: What Prison Lockdown Is Like

My name is Dwayne, and I spent 12 consecutive years of my life in various federal prisons throughout the country. I'm writing now to tell you about something that happens in prison called "lockdown" and the effects they had on me. During the COVID pandemic, lockdowns were almost constant. Although we're not at that point now, the frequency and impact of lockdowns in prison is still a huge red flag signaling the need for oversight about what's happening inside — for the sake of the people who live there, their families, and prison staff. Prison is already a hard place to be; lockdowns make it so much worse, and nobody wins.

Allow me to share my experience with you. Lockdowns are situations where all people in prison are confined to their cells for 24 hours a day. These lockdowns can last anywhere from a few hours to weeks, depending on the cause of the lockdown. The causes can vary greatly from inmate riots to staff shortages. For example, while I was in USP Leavenworth, we were on lockdown for several days, and the only explanation received was that there was a influx of prisoners bused in.
During lockdowns, prisoners can go weeks eating nothing but cornflakes, boiled eggs, and sandwiches. Incoming mail is not always passed out, and no calls are allowed to loved ones. People are not always allowed to shower regularly. I can recall a time while in Leavenworth that I went about 10 days without a shower, having to wash up in the sink.

Then there's the psychological toll. In prison, routine is what makes the time go by. For me, it was exercising for an hour and a half after they cleared the 5 a.m. count. Then showering. I would then go to the law library for about two hours. After lunch, I would start my prison job as a secretary orderly. Calling my daughter, Diera, after the 4 p.m. count. Every day from 6:00–7:00 p.m., I would watch *Family Feud*. None of this possible in lockdown. If you are a person who has never been to prison, this all might seem small, but to a person who is serving time, small things matter the most.

Lockdowns are terrible for families, too. I remember many days calling Diera. We would use those 15 minutes to talk about what she had eaten that day, what happened at school, where she'd been, where she was going, and what had happened since the last time we spoke. Picture being a parent in prison who calls home on certain days to catch up on your child's life. Then when the time comes to make that very special call, a prison guard tells you the entire facility is confined to their cells for the remainder of the day. Now imagine how hard that is on a child who looks forward to that bonding moment. Imagine how deflating that is on a parent who feels they have let their child down countless times already.

Imagine having a loved one in prison, whom you only see once or twice a year because of distance and travel expenses. You save up funds to book a flight or rent a car and book a hotel. Then you take off work, gather up the family, and travel hundreds of miles away only to be turned around at the entrance gate on visiting day because the entire facility is confined to their cells — on lockdown. This happened to my family when I was in FCI Yazoo City. They drove 13 hours from Chicago to Yazoo City, Mississippi. They made it down on a Friday and we were able to visit for a few hours. When it was time for them to return to the prison the next morning, everyone was turned around and denied visiting for the rest of the weekend. The prison had been placed on lockdown.

I know security is important. But I also know that lockdowns happen for a lot of reasons — including issues that demand oversight and could maybe be fixed and have nothing to do with security. Next time you hear the word "lockdown," please think about how oversight could help minimize this practice and the damage it inflicts on people in prison, staff, and families.

This fall, FAMM is celebrating 35 years of working for a fairer and more humane criminal justice system. Decade after decade, we've been working with you and your families to make sure we are focused on what matters most to you. Recently, we've been working on a timeline of all the FAMM milestones in these 35 years, and we'd appreciate your help. Do you have a memory of FAMM or an experience you had with FAMM over the years? If so, please mail it to us. Here's to 35 years of working together for reform – we couldn't have done it without you!

FAMM Homework!

Looking for ways to advocate? Here are some ways to stay connected to us and help us in the fight.

- Share your artwork with us. We can't publish all of it, but we'd love to see it. Mail it to us at the address below.
- If you are incarcerated in federal prison under a 924(c) stacked or 851 sentence enhancement, please mail us your story. We'll need it when we head to Lobby Day on Capitol Hill in November!
- If you have access to Edovo on a tablet, look for FAMM! We'll be adding more so please keep checking.
- We're tracking how extreme weather and environmental disasters impact people in prison (extreme heat or cold, flooding, poor air quality, etc.). Write to us and let us know your own experiences around this issue.
- Tell your family and friends to go to www.famm.org and Join FAMM.

VERY IMPORTANT: FAMM does not provide individual legal representation or advice. We receive an incredible amount of mail. While we do read every piece, we are not able to respond to them all.

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