

PCRI-41/91

United States District Court
Western District of Washington

William L. Dwyer
U.S. District Judge
502 U.S. Courthouse
Seattle, Washington 98104

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September 26, 1990

Hon. William W. Wilkins, Jr.
Chairman
United States Sentencing Commission
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1400
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Judge Wilkins:

Thank you for your letter of September 12, 1990, inviting comments about guidelines sections or policy statements.

Your letter mentions that the Commission has urged Congress not to enact additional mandatory minimum sentences. While you have not asked for comments in that regard, I would like to give you my thoughts.

Mandatory minimum sentences, in my view, are a throwback to earlier times when punishments were imposed by rigid formulas and without regard to individual justice. They cause many gross injustices in sentencing. I respectfully urge the Commission to recommend that Congress repeal the mandatory minimum sentence provisions now on the books. This need not be an unpopular position. Any supposed need for the mandatory minimums has been eliminated by the sentencing guidelines now in place.

Sincerely,



William L. Dwyer

WLD/pg