

004-95

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
PROBATION OFFICE

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January 31, 1995

U.S. Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Suite 2-5000, South Lobby
Washington, DC 20002-8002

ATTENTION: Public Information Office

Re: Proposed Amendments

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in regard to proposed Amendment 5 of Chapter 5, Part D (supervised release).

I support the Judicial Conference's position for the abolition of supervised release. I find no evidence to support the belief that tacking on a period of supervised release to a term of imprisonment has any positive effect on the crime rate or, for that matter, the rehabilitation of the supervised releasee. Furthermore, the number of supervised release violations has increased so dramatically that the district courts will soon be spending as much time holding violation hearings as they are now holding sentencing hearings.

I find it unusual that the Congress abolished the federal parole system, only to re-establish it as "supervised release" within the federal judiciary.

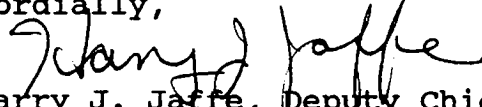
In short, I believe that the maintenance of supervised release has absolutely no effect on the incidence of criminal behavior by those people on supervised release nor does it impact positively on their rehabilitation. Supervised release violations are devouring the precious time of the federal courts, particularly technical violations such as use of narcotics or failure to report for supervision. I would encourage the

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Sentencing Commission to give the district judges the authority to decide whether any term of supervised release should be imposed.

Cordially,


Harry J. Jaffe, Deputy Chief
U.S. Probation Officer

HJJ/dlc