

Dear Legislator

I am writing to inform you of CDCR's latest "reform" efforts. And then I just want to ask you one thing.....what does any of this have to do with inmate rehabilitation???

I have been locked away here for \_\_\_\_\_ years. When I first arrived here we were allowed a few items of personal belongings: clothing and a few special things to connect us to our loved ones on the outside. Our families or friends could send us a quarterly package filled with food, hygiene, and a few individual articles of clothing. Of course there were stringent rules about what was or was not allowed in - no pocketknives baked inside a cake sort of thing! Now we can only receive packages from an "approved vendor" which carries inferior quality merchandise, is constantly out of stock, and charges our family arm and a leg (see attached price comparison)

For the past two years CDCR has been working to improve a new property matrix. Anything not listed on there we will not be allowed to receive. CDCR has spent years (with all the accompanying man-hours for countless highly paid bureaucratic input) developing this increased restriction.

But through all this have we done anything to further rehabilitation?? Have we encouraged even one inmate to explore the poor choices and flawed life decisions that brought them here??

The rationale for imposing this 6cu ft maximum property, and further restricting allowable items was as follows:

1. Get rid of as much inmate property as possible to make it easier for custody staff to search our belongings (which they do regularly – but mainly for retaliatory purposes)
2. Prevent the flow of drugs into the prison system (which is a misconception to start with..... research has clearly shown that only 5% of all drugs come into the prison system through quarterly packages).

I mean if we really wanted to prevent the flow of drugs why wouldn't we use a good drug sniffing dog?? Cheap, efficient, fast..... but would the dog sniff out someone that might be embarrassing to the department??? Have you seen the lunchbags (rolled in on wheels like an overnight bag) these C O's drag in here?

Anyway, take a look at the new property matrix and efforts to provide exemptions. And then tell me you think CDCR is really trying to rehabilitate. Tell me you think it has been worth the millions upon millions of tax-payers dollars spent. I've enclosed a few articles that speak to the problem way more eloquently than I ever could

Sincerely,

## -COMMUNITY VS. VENDOR- A Pricing Comparative Analogy

The following is a comparative analysis of prices between vendors and stores in the surrounding Fresno area for the week of December 11, 2005.

Items were compared utilizing exact brands, ounces, etc.

Many brands that the vendors sell are not sold in stores and so comparisons are not available (City Cow, Brushy Creek, Cactus Anne, etc.):

Price Comparison Items & Size	Access	Walkenhorst's	D & D	Long's	Walgreen's	Rite-Aid
Duracell "AA" batteries 8-Pk		\$9.98 (+124%)	\$7.12 (+60%)	<b>\$4.44</b>	<b>\$4.50</b>	<b>\$4.49</b>
Hershey's Kisses 8.5 - 10 oz		\$4.49 (+75%)	\$3.38 (+69%)	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$1.99</b>	<b>\$1.99</b>
Wheat Thins 7 - 10 oz		\$3.59 (+79%)		<b>\$2.00</b>		
Pringle's (chips) 6 oz		\$1.99 (+101%)	\$1.75 (+77%)		<b>\$0.99</b>	
CoffeeMate Creamer 16 oz	\$3.20 (+113%)			<b>\$1.50</b>		
Folger's Coffee 13 oz	\$7.80 (+291%)	\$6.99 (+251%)	\$8.97 (+351%)		<b>\$1.99</b>	
Maybelline Mascara	\$6.30 (+175%)	\$6.39 (+205%)	\$6.99 (+214%)		<b>\$2.29</b>	
Infusium23 Sham. or Cond. 16 oz	\$8.04 (+61%)	\$10.49 (+305%)	\$7.99 (+60%)		<b>\$4.99</b>	
Pantene Sham. or Cond.	\$6.99 (+109%)	\$6.99(+109%)	\$5.39 (+62%)		<b>\$3.33</b>	
Lady Speed Stick-Deo/anti-persp.	\$4.00 (+79%)	\$4.49 (+60%)			<b>\$2.05</b>	

Per the DOM 54030.9.1- Vendor prices will not exceed the median price of comparable items by more than 10%.