

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee  
c/o Colette Niehues  
300 SW 10th St, 546-S  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee,

My name is Dany Kravitz. I am a fisherman, husband, and hard worker. I am also a registered drug offender and convicted felon.

In 2014, I pleaded no contest to distribution of methamphetamine. Then, the judge gave me a chance to change--a chance to participate in a 90-day rehab program, which allowed me to move into a sober living house and then complete the 12 Steps of Narcotics Anonymous. That day, he said he saw something different in me. Before hearing him say those things about me, I didn't know that I could or would change. However, since then, I have realized the power of choices.

Today, I am proud to be sober for over 7 years, live on 14 acres with my wife, reconnect with family, and help other recovering addicts as a mentor. Today, I own my past and share it with anyone it can help. Most importantly, today I trust the Lord.

Building a new life hasn't been easy. Many people didn't want to hire a felon. Those that did hire me gave me long and odd hours. My bosses knew that I would have a hard time finding work somewhere else. I worked at a Home Depot warehouse, dug graves as a cemetery groundskeeper, gave my back to construction, and mowed lawns. I wanted real jobs. Always having good work has helped me become a new man. Today, I work in maintenance at Prairie Band Casino.

I used my first paychecks to move away from my old friends who were still involved in dealing drugs. I knew that I needed to make new friends. I knew I needed to make friends who weren't worried about ending up in jail. I wanted friends who could make me better. I have made great friends in NA and AA. I know my family members again. I got to see my grandmother and uncle before they passed away. My best friend is my wife, Lori. I'm very lucky to have met her. She supports me as I become better and I try my best to support her too.

Being sober has made it possible for me to keep a job and make new friends, but it has also allowed me to enjoy simple things. I feel free for the first time in my life. I love fishing. I've been able to find great fishing spots in town. Fishing has taken me on my first trip in my life. A friend and I went fishing in Florida and Alaska and we hope to fish outside the U.S. once the law allows me to. I also enjoy taking care of the goats, chickens, turkeys, and cows on our new land.

Since my conviction, I have had no problems with any law enforcement. I haven't missed a single registration deadline, as required by the registration law.

Last summer, I was hoping to be able to use expungement to get a better job. At the hearing, the District Attorney told me that I was a great example of what should happen in drug offender cases. I showed the changes she was looking for. The Judge also said that I was a perfect candidate

for expungement. He enjoyed the many letters my friends and family wrote to him in support of my expungement. However, he had to deny my expungement.

Everything happens for a reason. Everything is part of the Lord's plan. People on both sides of the hearing supported me, but the law is the law and there is nothing the Judge could do about that. I want to use this as an opportunity to help other people in my shoes. I want to help people who have worked to become better. Just like me, these people want to be good neighbors, good employees, and a normal person in this country. I want these people to be able to continue their journey where I am now waiting to continue mine.

I am happy to talk to anyone who wants to know more about my story. I am also happy to answer questions about how changes to the law could help rehabilitated people move forward when they are ready.

I understand that not all people have put in the work to rehabilitate themselves and not all people are ready to take the next step in joining the those around them. But we are. Please consider giving us a chance.

Sincerely,  
Dany Kravitz