

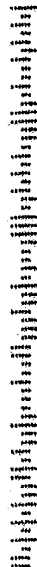
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4/27/20

To the Prison University Project,

I wanted to extend my deepest gratitude for your thoughtful gift during this difficult time for all. As an asthmatic my whole life, having come down with bronchitis and pneumonia on several occasions, this has been an extremely difficult time for me and my family as I go through my first (and hopefully last) incarceration. I have been cautious, perhaps even bordering on hypochondriac, when I get even the slightest hint of a symptom. My family has been affected firsthand by this awful disease, with my 80+ year old aunt coming down with the disease last Sunday.

Considering all this, it really is heart warming to see the support I have seen from the community given to the inmate population during this pandemic. Having lost <sup>the support of</sup> a majority of my friends and some family ~~due to~~ my legal troubles that started two years ago, I can't even begin to explain how much this means to me, and I'm sure the inmate population feels the same way.

This has given me inspiration to become an advocate for the prison population, something I honestly would have never <sup>dreamed</sup> to think about even a couple years ago, when my life was going great. I want to advocate for mental health and for the physical wellbeing of a population that has, historically, been forgotten, especially by policy makers.

Life inside has changed almost overnight, it seems, as I know it has on the outside as well. The

health and general well being of the population will remain in my thoughts and prayers as we get through this pandemic together. I know we will get out of this more resilient than before, and there will be brighter days ahead.

Thank you again.

Regards,

Brandon Genest

Brandon T. Genest

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P.S. If you wish, you have my permission to use any part of my letter in community outreach.