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General Assembly  
 State of Illinois

**Dale A. Righter**  
 Senate Republican Caucus Chairman  
 State Senator - 55th District

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July 24, 2008

Friends and Family of Michael Mayborne  
 6319 Lanterne Drive  
 Loves Park, IL 61111

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your form letter of June 11, 2008 concerning the Illinois Prisoner Review Board (PRB). I agree with the substance of what has been set forth in this correspondence, including that there exists serious and legitimate questions about the manner in which appointments to the PRB have been handled.

While I appreciate greatly your willingness to raise this critical matter the correspondence fails to specifically indicate those in the Senate who are responsible for the troubling trend of the last several years on this issue. Whether that is due to an unwillingness to be so direct or because the authors are simply unaware of who may be the responsible party in the Illinois Senate on this matter is a secondary concern. Regardless, I am writing in response for two reasons. First, to make clear that the Democrat Party's majority in the Illinois Senate is responsible for what has occurred in this regard. But secondly, and just as importantly, those concerned with this issue must be willing to state this fact publicly in order to make a positive difference.

I appreciate the political trepidation that is always associated with directly and specifically criticizing those in power; the current majority party in Springfield has obviously given individuals and entities reason to believe that retribution is in order for those whose criticisms are deemed to harsh. But unfortunately the public and others who read your June 11 correspondence will be unable to determine, from vague references such as "Senate leadership," which Senators are promoting or allowing an agenda that is clearly not in the public's best interest. Senate President Emil Jones (D-Chicago), and the Democrat Senators who unanimously vote to make him Senate President, are directly responsible for the unfavorable change in the PRB which your correspondence describes. Like many of you, I am familiar with the common refrain from many Democrats in the Senate, to the effect that they disagree or are opposed to actions taken by the Senate President and his leadership team. But these claims are nothing more than empty rhetoric when, every two years, these same Senators cast a ballot in favor of Emil Jones for Senate President. There is no doubt that if the Senate President and his leadership team felt their power could be threatened by the continued pursuit of an anti-law enforcement agenda with regards to the PRB, this agenda would come to an abrupt halt.

Unfortunately, those who give the Senate President and his leadership team this power appear disinterested in holding these individuals accountable, even on issues on which they claim to differ.

It is my sincere hope that the practice of systematically removing those affiliated with law enforcement from the PRB will cease in the near future. But with an equal degree of sincerity, I believe the only way this will occur is for those who are outraged by this conduct, including yourselves, to be both direct and specific regarding who should be held accountable.

Thank you again for writing and your concern over this troubling issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale A. Righter".

DALE A. RIGHTER  
State Senator  
55th District

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