

Governor Jay Nixon
Office of the Governor
Room 216, State Capitol Building
Jefferson City MO 65101

Dear Governor Nixon,

I am writing regarding a Missouri Department of Corrections rule that violates my constitutional rights as a citizen. This rule is punishing inmates for personal ads, legal ads and résumés placed on websites such as WriteAPrisoner.com.

I respectfully wish to inform the Governor's office that I am opposed to the rule based on the fact that it violates the First Amendment rights of inmates in Missouri and is an attempt to censor what I can and cannot view on my own computer. In addition, the DOC is punishing its inmates for ads placed on the Internet by private citizens. Inmates do not have Internet access, and I do not believe the state has the right to punish an inmate for something placed on the Internet. How can the state justify punishing them for something which they have no control over? Furthermore, inmates posting legal ads and résumés on WriteAPrisoner.com and similar sites are also having these forced offline by the state. Missouri's DOC website already posts inmates' names, addresses, and photos. There is no logical rationale for opposing inmates seeking friendship, jobs, etc. Is it not in society's best interests to promote positive interactions such as correspondence with pen pals?

I am requesting that your office intervene and abolish this DOC rule. I also request that this letter be entered into the official record in opposition of this rule. Please be assured that I will continue to stay apprised on this situation via WriteAPrisoner.com. I appreciate that the DOC is committed to reducing crime and recidivism, and I believe that establishing positive relationships for inmates is one step toward this shared goal. Thank you for your time. I look forward to your prompt response regarding this serious matter.

Respectfully,