



State of Indiana

Senate

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Indiana Dream Team
Gosport, Indiana

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I recently had the good fortune of visiting the Indiana Dream Team operation which is located in Owen County, northwest of Gosport, Indiana.


I had been aware of the existence of Eric Lashbrook's operation, which is called the Indiana Dream Team for several years, but I had not availed myself of the opportunity to visit the facility. My family had supported the operation in a very minor way, and I was aware of its purpose and nature of its operation. I can only say, after visiting the facility, I was very impressed with the facilities and above all, the personnel who are operating it.

I have been involved in the criminal justice system for many years. I was prosecuting attorney for twelve years and during my thirty-eight years in the Indiana General Assembly (18 in the House of Representatives and 20 years in the Senate), I carried many bills dealing with the criminal justice system both as it involves juveniles and adults and was once chairman of the Criminal Code Committee of the House, and for more than a dozen years was chairman of the Senate Judicial Committee. These committees dealt with most of the criminal justice issues.

I am aware of the problems and frustrations of dealing with troubled youths and the many attempted solutions which have been tried, but I have never seen a project that deals with these problem juveniles which was of such quality and showing such promise as that I observed with Eric Lashbrook's operation. It is a practical operation which gets the troubled youth out of their previous environment which, in my opinion, is extremely important and puts them in a rural area where the surroundings are totally wholesome and is remote from their previous temptations. It also offers moral guidance which I believe is essential if you are going to turn these people around.

While realistically enough to know that one solution will not solve every case, I have trouble imagining an atmosphere which is more filled with hope and promise than what they have put together with the Indiana Dream Team.

Sincerely,


Richard D. Bray
Indiana State Senator
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