

Dear Ms Masters,

My mother died last July. And while nothing can completely assuage the loss of her, the letters that I received and saved from her over the years are tangible evidence of her love that soften my grief.

When I read that the New York Board of Corrections was considering replacing actual letters with scanned copies I immediately thought of my mother's letters. A digitized version of a letter is not the equivalent of holding a piece of paper that your loved one's fingers have touched. Seeing an image on a screen cannot match a wrinkled drawing by a child with the lingering scent of waxy crayons.

People who are incarcerated have limited lifelines to their family and friends outside of prison. We know that strong community connections upon release can reduce the rate of recidivism. Why would the BOC potentially weaken those connections?

Please reconsider this change to receiving paper mail.

Sincerely,  
Heather Kelley