

Partners for Reintegration
Max Corrigan Testimony
2341 S 7th W
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 830-6847

Madam chair and members of the committee, my name is Max Corrigan. I am a small town man born in Deer Lodge and raised in Lincoln, MT. I am in my third year at the University of Montana.

In 2001, I attended college in small town Laramie, WY. I graduated with a degree in Automotive Technology. I worked as a mechanic until the Army National Guard called me to duty.

I deployed with 1st Cavalry Division to Iraq where served in over 150 combat missions as a .50cal gunner in Iraq. I was severely wounded by an improvised explosive devise that detonated under my vehicle. My back was broken which required intense physical therapy so I could walk again. The injuries were so severe that I was medically retired from the Army.

(pause)

As a result of the internal and external wounds of war I was hopeless— utterly hopeless and had lost all sense of purpose in my life. Because of this, I chose to self medicate with alcohol and abuse the drugs prescribed by the VA. Because of the choices I made, I ended up in prison.

(pause)

I found people that believed in me—Casey Dunning and Landee Halloway, and especially my friend and mentor Robert Howe, a fellow veteran, and a formerly incarcerated person that is making a difference in our community. He inspired me to get involved with Missoula Interfaith Collaberative—today I have hope because someone believed in me.

I have been given an opportunity to be a part of something. My involvement in this initiative has given me a sense of community— today, I belong somewhere. Today I am part of the solution. I am no longer on the outside looking in.

I now have an opportunity to use my life experience to benefit other men and women coming out of prison. To make my community a safer, better place.

(pause—turn & look committee and Batista)

You all have the power and authority to make this partnership succeed. What I really need is your leadership, your faith that programs like these can bring those who have been imprisoned back to life—

With our belief in them, they can become productive citizens and assets to their communities. I am evidence of what the gifts of faith and hope can do.

Thank you.