



COUNTY OF MADERA

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The Madera County District Attorney's Office received news today that the parole board decided to release Chowchilla school bus kidnapper, Fredrick Woods.

District Attorney Sally Moreno made the following comments:

"I am frustrated and disturbed because justice has been mocked in Madera County. Let me put it bluntly: if you can kidnap a busload of school children, abandon them buried alive and still get out of prison after committing that crime and spending your time in prison flouting the law breaking the rules and demonstrating by your conduct that you have learned nothing since committing that crime, it says a lot about the state of our society and the state of California right now.

It is hard to articulate everything I am feeling - all the suffering that he caused to those children throughout their lives, which will continue unabated; his continuing inability to conform his behavior to the rules demonstrating his own unrepentance and lack of rehabilitation; his obvious lack of understanding of the impact his acts have on others as demonstrated by the totality of his conduct in prison.

It was an emotional day watching two of his victims and the son of a third, deceased, victim ask the board to keep him in custody. Working hard with Jill Klingy, a retired prosecutor from Alameda County and statewide subject matter expert who has thrown her heart and soul into helping victims and advocating for them; working hard with her to articulate the legal reasons Mr. Woods should not have been released. It felt like we did everything we could possibly have done to try to keep him in. And yet somehow, the facts, the logic, the lifelong trauma, the lack of remorse, and the pleas for fair play were all ignored.

It is a dark night and I worry for the future of my state. But here is what I know: tomorrow the sun will rise and I and prosecutors like me all over the state will get up and go to work to keep the public safe, to remove violent offenders from our communities, and to make sure victims' voices are heard in our justice system.

It is work worth doing. The fight for justice will continue."

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PURSuing JUSTICE FOR ALL OF MADERA COUNTY