

## **To Promote Safety, Accountability & Justice, Pass Fair & Timely Parole (S159-Salazar/A127-Weprin) and Elder Parole (S454-Hoylman/A514-Davila)**

- **Fair & Timely Parole (S159-Salazar/A127-Weprin)** restores the Parole Board to its original purpose of evaluating people's readiness for release, rather than denying people based solely on their conviction, while preserving the Board's discretion to make individualized determinations. **Elder Parole (S454-Hoylman/A514-Davila)** provides for parole release consideration, on a case-by-case basis, for people classified by DOCCS as older adults (age 55+) who have served at least 15 years.
- The original purpose of the parole release system was to promote growth and rehabilitation in prison and allow people who have transformed themselves to return to their families & communities. Yet under current law, many incarcerated New Yorkers are denied this opportunity, because the Parole Board perpetually denies them based on the one thing they can never change—their crime of conviction—or their extreme sentence does not allow for any possibility of redemption.
- As a result, even as New York State's prison population has generally declined over the last two decades, the proportion and number of older adults has increased, despite this population having the lowest recidivism rates and, in many ways, holding the greatest promise to serve as assets to their communities if released.
- Parole Justice is about reuniting families, promoting healing, and improving community safety. People who have taken accountability for their crimes are committed to giving back to their home communities by mentoring young people, interrupting gun violence, serving as peer drug counselors, supporting their families, and generally repairing harm.
- Endless punishment does nothing to keep our communities safe & costs a fortune. New York spends \$240,000/year to lock up each older adult, money that could be spent on improving community safety: good jobs, vibrant schools, quality health care (including mental health care), stable housing, support for crime survivors & more. Parole justice will make communities safer, reunite families, and [save \\$522 million dollars annually](#).
- [These bills are backed by](#) leading crime survivor advocates like the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault, civil rights organizations like the NAACP of New York State, former New York State Parole Commissioners, organized labor, the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan District Attorneys and all public defense firms, aging services providers like JASA, faith leaders & congregations, and a majority of state legislators.