SAVE THE DATE

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING: ENDING LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

October 14, 2021, 12PM on Zoom


Register for the Zoom event here. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing meeting information.

“To sentence a person to life without the opportunity to make amends for the pain and suffering he or she has caused, or the opportunity to be a productive member of the community, is cruel.”

- Person currently serving LWOP

“Ending life without parole brings hope to a system. Sends message that we don’t give up on people. People can change.”

- Person currently serving LWOP

Massachusetts has the highest percentage of people serving life without parole sentences in the nation, followed by Louisiana. As of July 26, 2021, 1,013 people in Massachusetts are serving LWOP out of less than 6,000 criminally sentenced people in DOC custody. This means that one out of every six people incarcerated in Massachusetts state prisons is foreclosed from the opportunity to ever apply for parole.
Of the people serving LWOP, 600, or 59%, are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) though only 28% of the Massachusetts population are BIPOC. Also known as “slow death row,” this sentence strips people of their hope and denies the human capacity to change. LWOP sentences waste taxpayer dollars and do not actually promote public safety.

Please join us on October 14th at 12:00pm to learn about An Act to Reduce Mass. Incarceration (H1797) which would allow all people serving life sentences the opportunity for a parole hearing after serving 25 years.

**Featured Speakers**

- State Representative Liz Miranda, sponsor of An Act to Reduce Mass. Incarceration
- State Representative Jay Livingstone, sponsor of An Act to Reduce Mass. Incarceration
- Janet Connors, Survivor and Restorative Justice Practitioner
- Keyon Sprinkle, exoneree
- Karter Reed, Advocate, Activist, Mentor, Co-Chairperson of the Campaign to End Life Without Parole (CELWOP)
- Regina Daughtry, Formerly incarcerated lifer, community organizer, working on transforming harm into creativity
- Shanita Jefferson, daughter of a woman currently serving life without parole, advocate for people who have been harmed and people who have caused harm
- Karen Pulido, mother of a person currently serving life without parole
Campaign to End Life Without Parole
Coalition for Effective Public Safety
Actual Justice team of the Southern New England United Church of Christ
New Vision Organization, Inc.
THE MASSACHUSETTS BAIL FUND
CELWOP
CAMPAIGN TO END LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE
BLACK & PINK MASSACHUSETTS
FAMM
New Beginnings
Re-Entry Services
CEPS
Coalition for Effective Public Safety
NASW
National Association of Social Workers
MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER
Criminal Justice Policy Coalition
EQUITY • EMPATHY • REDEMPTION
NEW ENGLAND INNOCENCE PROJECT
LWV
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL Criminal Justice Institute
THE F8 FOUNDATION
Parole Review For All
Prisoners’ Legal Services of Massachusetts
NOTE: This briefing is Part 2 of a two-part series on parole reform in Massachusetts. You can find a recording of Part 1: Reforming Parole and Medical Parole to Enhance Public Safety here.