



SAVE THE DATE

# LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING: ENDING LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

October 14, 2021, 12PM on Zoom

Co-Hosted by: Criminal Justice Reform Caucus, Rep. Liz Miranda  
and Rep. Jay Livingstone, sponsors of H.1797

**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.

# LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING: ENDING LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

*Continued*

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*

## Additional Information:



[PLS Fact Sheet on H.1797 and Life Without Parole](#)



[DOC LWOP Statistics July 2021](#)



[Norfolk Lifers Group Report on LWOP Sentencing by Race/Ethnicity/Age](#)



[Norfolk Lifers Group Fast Facts: The Escalating and Staggering Cost of Incarceration in MA State Prisons](#)



[NEIP Fact Sheet: LWOP](#)



[NEIP Fact Sheet: Race and LWOP](#)



[NEIP Fact Sheet: What is Life Without Parole?](#)



[NEIP Fact Sheet: What is Restorative Justice?](#)



[NEIP Fact Sheet: The Cost of LWOP](#)



[The Case for Why Violent Offenders Deserve Parole by Joseph Dole](#)



[Sentencing Project, No End In Sight: America's Enduring Reliance on Life Imprisonment](#)



[Video: 'I missed it all' What This Former Prisoner Is Fighting For](#)

## SPONSORS:



Actual Justice team of the  
Southern New England  
United Church of Christ



*New Vision  
Organization, Inc.*



**ACLU**  
Massachusetts

THE MASSACHUSETTS BAIL  
FUND



CAMPAIGN TO END  
LIFE WITHOUT  
PAROLE



**FAMM**



**CEPS**

Coalition for  
Effective  
Public Safety



THE F8 FOUNDATION

**Parole Review for All**



Charles Hamilton  
**HOUSTON  
INSTITUTE**  
For Race & Justice



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](#).