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Kathleen M. Kiley
Counsel to the Board of Parole
Department of Corrections and Community
Supervision
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 2
Albany, New York 12226-2050

Dear Ms. Kiley,

I have read the three (3) proposed changes to Executive Law 259-c (4), (11) and 259-i. These are good proposals, but I believe that greater changes are needed and long over due.

Since the enactment of Executive Law, the Parole Commissioners have continually operated with no oversight. In essence they have become the Judge, Jury and the Prosecutor. And this is manifested by the new sentences that they give out in the form of two year hits.

How is it that a person that has no judicial power, can become Judge, Jury and Prosecutor simply by being giving a job as a Parole Commissioner? A person is sentenced by a Judge and than re-sentenced by the parole board. Is this not called double jeopardy?

With less than 1% of people who have spent over twenty (20) years in prison returning with a new conviction, the changes in parole releases should be greater.

People make mistakes at young ages in their lives and go through the judicial process, which totally changes their lives, their families lives and the lives of the victims and their families lives. When does the pain stop and the healing begin?

I don't believe that it is D.O.C.C.S. intentions to turn broken men and women into bitter men and women, but the way that this system is operating there is absolutely no hope for people nearing their parole board. They do everything in their powers to prepare for release and when the time comes, release is denied.

Society shows us that we must prepare our lives in stages. Go to school and get an education, get a job that will lead to a career, get married and have children and so on. How can people in prison prepare for anything when there is no guarantee that they will have a life outside of prison and not die in prison seeking parole?

Everyone under the Parole umbrella can change the mentality and direction of N.Y.S. Prisons with enacting one thing. The Safe Parole Act, A.2930/S.1728. This bill will force dramatic change in the N.Y.S. Prison system, because everyone seeking a favorable parole decision will have to bring the parole board what they are requesting for release. The passing of the Safe Parole Act will cut down the gang activity in prison, the cutting and stabbings in prison and the unwillingness to learn and better oneself in prison. All of these changes will come by giving people hope, and hope is something that is definitely needed in this broken system.

In closing I would like to share a comparison with you.

Slavery: Separates Mother from Child, Father from Child and Wife from Husband.

Executive Law: Keeps prisoners seeking parole from their families, sometimes having them die in prison.

Slavery: Keeps the Plantation full to have the slave mend the crops and do other dirty work.

Executive Law: Keeps prisons full, so that inmates, mainly those with over 15 years in prison and seeking parole, working in the industries creating MILLIONS in sells and getting paid pennies for their labor, literally between 18 and 35 cents an hour.

Slavery: Keeps people in chains to break their spirits, steal their future and keep them until they are too old to work or have a family.

Executive Law: Keeps people seeking parole in prison stealing their hopes, their future and any dreams that they may have had.

Slavery: Keeps slaves in a oppressed environment.

Executive Law: Exhibits oppression by continually denying parole to people that have served more time than what they were sentenced by a Judge, (in some cases between 6 to 20 years).

Slavery: Was Abolished.

Executive Law and all of its sections should be Abolished.

Sincerely,
Prince Shabaz

cc. John Director, ARRC
cc. Mujahid Farid
cc. Parole Preparation Project
cc. File