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Greetings,

My brother-in-law is George Hill #93A-8537, forty-four years old and he has been incarcerated for twenty-five years this month. George has appeared at the Parole Board four times after his minimum sentence of twenty years to life, and each time they denied parole for **“inherently uncorrectable reasons”** such as the nature of his crime and criminal history.

This is completely unfair to **our family**. George has demonstrated his commitment to being a better son, brother, uncle, cousin, nephew, friend, as well as a productive member in society. George is extremely remorseful and uses the mistakes he made to help others remain focused on living a productive life once released. George also has complete family support, job offers, N.Y.S. Certification as a Counselor Aide in Social Living Skills, Associate and Bachelor Degrees and is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Professional Studies of Theology. How can the Parole Board be allowed to continue to deny George release for reasons he can’t ever change?

It’s also unfair to taxpayers. We are the people footing the bill to warehouse men and women who are community ready such as George. From my understanding, it costs \$60,000 a year to keep people like George in prison. I don’t want my tax dollars being used for someone as accomplished as George sitting in prison, when he could be contributing to our community through city, state, and federal government taxes. This is the reason why the SAFE Parole Act needs to be passed by our New York State Legislatures. I will make this known by voting for the representatives who signed on to support the SAFE Parole Act.

Moreover, the Parole Board is responsible for creating a sense of hopelessness and despair, not just among the prisoners, but their families as well (Mr. John

Mackenzie committed suicide after being denied parole board for the 10th time and served 40 years at the time of his death). This is cruel and unusual punishment to the reformed prisoner and their family! We know that the crimes committed against people changed their lives, but what is not considered is how the Parole Board changes the family lives of the convicted when their loved one is repeatedly denied parole.

We all want to believe the system works for everyone, including those who have committed crimes. However, the Parole Board has their own laws, and those laws seem to be above sentencing judges and New York State representatives. Where is that accountability?

Regards,
Robert Klauser