

**Release Aging People in Prison Campaign & Parole Preparation Project  
Respond to NYS Senate Republicans' [Victims' Justice Agenda](#):**

The Release Aging People in Prison Campaign and Parole Preparation Project believe in the inherent dignity of all people and were founded on principles of justice and redemption. These values extend not only to those in prison, but also to people, families, and communities that have survived serious harm and interpersonal violence. We know that responding to harm and violence by perpetually punishing those who cause it does not meet the many needs of survivors or promote public safety. Instead, it creates far more harm than benefit to communities across our state.

There are 10,000 older people and 9,000 New Yorkers serving life sentences in New York State prisons. The majority will be denied parole and others have sentences that prevent them from ever returning home. Locking people up into old age or until they die without any opportunity for release serves only as retribution and revenge. It promotes the very policies, practices and politics that first created mass incarceration and disproportionately impacts Black and Brown New Yorkers.

Life and long sentences sever family ties and deprive us of so many incarcerated elders who will benefit our communities as they've benefitted countless of their incarcerated peers. These sentences also defy decades of evidence that shows older people, including those convicted of serious crimes, pose minimal risk to public safety.

New York must extend an opportunity for redemption to older people who have served decades in prison. We urge the legislature to pass Elder Parole (S2144/A4319), which provides only a consideration of parole release to people in prison aged 55 and older who have served 15 or more years. At the same time, we strongly support more resources, real safety, and opportunities for healing for survivors of violence and their loved ones. It's time for New York to reject the politics of mass incarceration and bring our loved ones home.

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