

**Wednesday, June 5th from 9am-5pm:**

**CALL THE LEADERS OF THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE AND DEMAND THEY PRESSURE GOV. CUOMO TO APPOINT NEW PAROLE BOARD COMMISSIONERS**

Every year the New York State Parole Board decides the fate of 12,000 people in prison. After a short video conference interview and a cursory review of the record, Commissioners determine who can return to their families and communities and who must remain in prison.

Although the law calls for a Board of 19, there are currently only 12 seated commissioners. These 12 commissioners are responsible for reviewing 12,000 cases every year. Such understaffing has led to overworked commissioners, postponed parole interviews and other procedural problems. These issues have a devastating impact on people in prison, especially the elderly serving life and long sentences who can't afford to wait any longer for release.

Further, the majority of past and present commissioners do not believe in principles of rehabilitation or redemption. Many are former prosecutors and members of law enforcement.

**On Wednesday, June 5th between 9am and 5pm, please call Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and demand they pressure Governor Cuomo to fully staff the Parole Board and nominate new commissioners who believe in mercy and personal transformation.** The leaders of our legislature have the power to push the Governor to do the right thing and promote real parole justice.

**Call-in script:**

“My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I’m from \_\_\_\_\_(city/town/neighborhood). I’m calling to ask that the (Senate Majority Leader Cousins/Assembly Speaker Heastie) demand that Governor Cuomo fully staff the New York State Parole Board by nominating new Parole Board Commissioners who believe in mercy, redemption and personal transformation. These nominations must come long before the end of session so that legislators and advocates have time to properly vet all candidates for this important position. The lives of thousands of incarcerated New Yorkers are at stake and we need you to act now.”

**Call-in numbers:**

*Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins*

[518-455-2585](tel:518-455-2585)

*Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie*

[518-455-3791](tel:518-455-3791)