

Testimony By: Jose Ramos, DIN: #85A5899

THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTIONS HEARING ON HOW THE ELDER PAROLE AND FAIR & TIMELY PAROLE BILL WILL IMPROVE PAROLE RELEASE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY IN NEW YORK STATE

I testify that the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole bills play an essential role in motivating prisoners who deserve another chance at life, at being fathers, husbands, and contributing community members who have changed their way of thinking, through reflection and hard work. Time has given them the opportunity to dig deep down inside and come out with the old and create a new, in ways that have manifested positive growth and maturity through good orderly direction from mentors and programming.

I'm 70 years old, with medical problems. This is my first time in prison. I was 32 years old when I came to prison, and didn't know any English. I got my G.E.D. and completed one year of college, where I earned a diploma in recreation leadership. I have two (2) son's and two (2) daughters and four (4) grandchildren. The passing of these bills would allow me to be a great grandfather and to mentor them in ways that will, God-willing, prevent them from being incarcerated. These bills will indeed benefit prisoners who are just sitting in prison with no hope and no light at the end of the tunnel. Moreover, passing these bills will also take courage and a way to prove to naysayers that the prison industrial system (warehousing/involuntary servitude) is not what a justice system is about. Prison reform and all forms of rehabilitation, through programming and schooling, should be the moral fiber and compass for prisoners who truly want to change and who have repented for their actions.

I thank you very much Senator Julia Salazar and other Senators for acknowledging these bills that will give prisoners hope, as well as our families, and community members who we could provide mentorship to and be productive citizens of society for.

Respectfully Submitted,

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