

Testimony by Ralph Salierno, DIN: 04A2511
New York State Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime & Correction Hearing on how
the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole Bills Will Improve Parole Release Laws &
Public Safety in NY State.

From my experiences in prison I know that the Elder Parole bill will benefit the Dept. of Corrections and also incarcerated people. Allowing people in prison to see a special parole board at 55 years old after 15 years in prison (enough time to satisfy rehabilitation) will save the state money, encourage incarcerated people to take all necessary programs, stay out of trouble, and provide the state a more mature and responsible adult who can be productive in society.

It cost the DOCCS. over 63 million dollars every three years to house and provide the special needs of incarcerated people who are 55 years old and older. The older we get the more medication we need. Eye glasses, hearing aids, and orthopedic boots are just some of the needs of the elderly. Outside medical trips are also very costly.

Older prisoners do not have the same mindset they had 20 years ago. They have learned right from wrong and to think through situations. Offenders who have gotten up every morning and went to a program or prison job developed great work ethic. Maintaining an educational program or blue collar job such as - plumber, mason, welder, custodial maintenance, painter, industrie worker, or mess hall worker should be looked at as a positive sign and given serious consideration at an Elderly Parole Board.

In conclusion, a Parole Board interview for people aged 55+ will save the state over 20 million dollars a year, provide space in facilities without opening costly new prisons, and provide society with much needed mature blue collar tradesmen. We need to give the elderly a second chance.

Thank you,
Ralph Salierno
DIN: 04A2511