

TESTIMONY BY RONALD MACK (DIN #95A5418)
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BEFORE THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CRIME VICTIMS,
CRIME & CORRECTION HEARING
ON HOW THE ELDER PAROLE AND FAIR & TIMELY PAROLE BILLS WILL
IMPROVE RELEASE LAWS AND PUBLIC SAFETY IN NEW YORK

December 7, 2022

I am 60 years-old and serving a 168 years-to-life sentence for 6 robberies. I have been incarcerated since 1993, going on 29 years at the end of December, for these robberies. Because of sentencing enhancements I face a slow death penalty, no matter how much I have grown and changed, unless the Legislature and Governor Hochul enact reforms like Senator Hoylman's Elder Parole and Senator Salazar's Fair & Timely Parole.

Most older prisoners want to give back to society in some way, and have matured in our thinking on life. Most people grow and mature to want more for themselves and family. Me personally, I have a completely different perspective and attitude than I did when I was convicted. I've learned what it means to be a positive and contributing member of a community. Years ago, with the help of mentors in prison, I finally learned to respect life – as in, the lives of others and my own – and I recognized the impacts of my actions. With a greater respect comes a greater responsibility and I look forward to an opportunity to demonstrate that I am ready to live up to it in the community.

The vast majority of elderly people in prison who have served or who are serving long sentences will not return to prison. These bills will allow the Parole Board to identify those individuals and, at their discretion, act accordingly. I understand they won't guarantee anyone release, including me, but they would give us a meaningful chance.

These bills will also give the state the chance to save hard-working tax-paying people money on medical, housing, programing, and food for elderly prisoners who have completed their programs, rehabilitated themselves and are not a threat to society. The state could then allocate that money to other important things needed like community centers, drug treatment, and material support for crime victims.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you. I humbly hope you consider and pass Senator Salazar's Fair & Timely Parole bill and Senator Hoylman's Elder Parole bill.