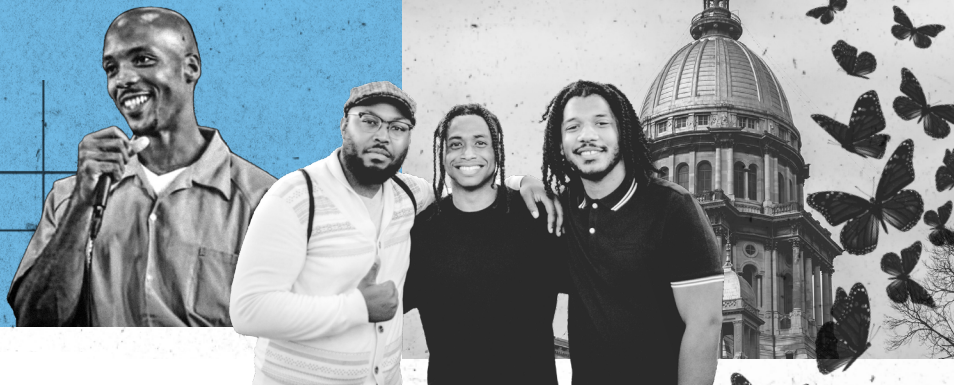


#BringBackParoleInIllinois



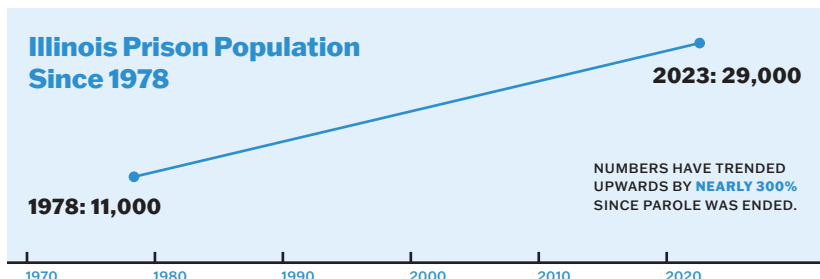
THE PROBLEM:

Forty-five years without parole is too long.

In 1978, Illinois joined a small group of states and ended discretionary parole, eliminating a crucial tool proven to incentivize rehabilitation and improve public safety.

Ending parole was part of the failed “tough on crime” movement that left Illinois with rigid and excessive sentencing laws, bulging prisons, and thousands of people being ordered to spend the rest of their lives behind bars, **with no mechanism to review whether their continued incarceration serves any purpose.**

As a consequence, Illinois’ positive rehabilitation and release efforts suffered. The vast majority of people incarcerated in Illinois over the past 45 years have no opportunity for parole review. Illinois needs to rejoin the majority of the US and provide a path for sentence review and re-entry.



Discretionary parole is the process by which people who’ve met certain criteria and taken concrete steps toward improvement are reviewed for potential early release under a period of community supervision.

Parole has been an integral part of our penal system, enabling the system to be more just, cost-effective, and oriented toward the healing of our families and communities. Almost every other state has a parole system.



ARTICLE 1 SEC. 11 OF THE ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION STATES THAT ALL PENALTIES SHOULD AIM TO RESTORE PEOPLE TO **USEFUL CITIZENSHIP**



COMPARED TO 1978, PEOPLE ARE NOW SERVING **2-3X MORE PRISON TIME** FOR THE SAME CRIME CONVICTIONS.



OF THOSE SERVING LIFE SENTENCES, **68% ARE BLACK**, WHILE BLACK PEOPLE COMPRISE **<15% OF ILLINOIS’ POPULATION**



RESTORING PAROLE COULD SAVE TAXPAYERS **MORE THAN \$115M** OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS

THE SOLUTION:

Bring back parole. Support SB2129 and HB3373.

The Earned Reentry Bill provides a mechanism for regular review of people who have served at least 20 years in prison, thus restoring an opportunity for people with long sentences to return to productive lives when they are ready.

People who meet certain criteria could be granted parole by the Prisoner Review Board, allowing them to return home to their families and jobs while remaining under community supervision. **They would be held to stipulated rules and complete regular check-ins with a parole officer until the end of their community supervision.**

Parole Approval Process:

 INCARCERATION



PAROLE ELIGIBILITY



PAROLE HEARING



COMMUNITY SUPERVISION



ParoleIllinois.org   

Support Earned Reentry in the Illinois Legislature: **SB2129 + HB3373** Questions? Email: Info@ParoleIllinois.org

TAKE ACTION:

Tell your elected officials: it's time to bring back parole.

Contact your State Senator and Representative to let them know that parole is good for Illinois.

Ask them to support **Senate Bill 2129** and **House Bill 3373**.

More info: IllinoisPolicy.org/Maps



The Earned Reentry Bill is common sense.

A. Earned Reentry targets those most prepared to return home.

People who have served long sentences are most likely to have **transformed their lives and aged out of crime**. Earned Reentry provides a mechanism to review such people who've been incarcerated for years and are no longer the same people they were when convicted decades ago.

B. Earned Reentry offers a solution that's based on science.

Studies show **recidivism rates decline with age**, starting with a sharp drop as individuals reach their mid-20s. FAMM and Prison Policy Initiative both recommend reviewing sentences after no more than 15 years. Earned Reentry takes a crucial step in aligning the law with science by providing a mechanism of review at 20 years.

C. Earned Reentry provides a structured and merit-based way to reduce the prison population.

The Bill utilizes the existing Prisoner Review Board—which has a much higher rate of success than other methods of release. **Parole is granted only to candidates who earn release** by fulfilling specific criteria and demonstrating readiness to rejoin society.

D. Earned Reentry offers hope and incentive for positive change.

The possibility of parole provides motivation for maintaining relationships and **preparing for a productive life**. This source of hope for those serving long sentences and their families, in turn, helps to make prisons safer for the people who live and work there.

No matter your politics, parole is a WIN for Illinois:

✓ Public Safety

Parole Improves Public Safety.

Strong families and communities are the foundation of safety. Parole and re-entry services can help families and communities repair, which helps all of us. In fact, **over two-thirds of crime-survivors supported alternatives to incarceration**, such as mental-health treatment and rehabilitation, which stress healing of individuals and communities.¹

✓ Second Chances

Parole Incentivizes Rehabilitation and Improves Re-Entry.

Parole allows people who have been incarcerated for decades and demonstrated rehabilitation to be **evaluated for reentry based on who they are now**. The process incentivizes rehabilitation and provides opportunities to contribute to the community.

✓ Taxpayer Relief

Parole Saves Taxpayer \$\$\$ and Boosts The Economy.

Incarceration is expensive. It costs Illinois taxpayers **over \$60K/yr per incarcerated person**. By comparison, mandatory supervised release costs only **\$2300/yr per person**.² Experts estimate that bringing back parole could generate a **cost savings of \$115M or more** after 10 years.²

1. According to a 2016 Alliance for Safety and Justice national poll
2. According to a January 2022 report by the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC)

THE PEOPLE'S LOBBY



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