14,148 People are serving extreme* prison sentences in Illinois right now

- 1,594 people are required to die in prison (LWOP)
- 2,475 more people will almost surely die in prison (99% chance)
- 4,837 more people may die in prison, and all will spend what should have been the most productive years of their lives in prison
- 5,242 more people will probably survive to see the streets again, but will be worse off economically, have fewer employment opportunities, and damaged familial relationships due to their time in prison

"We've had...one enhancement after another. Longer and longer sentencing, we're taking these positions, we're going to be tough on crime, we're locking everybody up for life, and it's just not right." - IL Rep. Rita Mayfield (D - Waukegan)

"A just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and the goal of rehabilitation." – Pope Francis

"[W]e must recognize that too much punishment does more harm than good." - John Irwin, author of The Warehouse Prison

"[C]apital punishment, long-term prison sentences, and other harsh sanctions are not making US streets, homes, and intimate relationships safer. In fact, extreme harshness is a conservative social experiment that has clearly failed." - Criminologist Walter S. DeKeseredy.

* A sentence is classified as "extreme" if it mandates the person sentenced to serve ten or more years without periodic review to determine whether their continued incarceration serves any purpose.

Data collation by Jonathan Hernandez using data as of September 2018 provided by the Illinois Department of Corrections. Graphic design by Emily Bruell