



SAVE THE DATE

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING: ENDING LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

October 14, 2021, 12PM on Zoom

Co-Hosted by: Criminal Justice Reform Caucus, Rep. Liz Miranda
and Rep. Jay Livingstone, sponsors of H.1797

Register for the Zoom event [here](#)

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
containing meeting information.*

*"To sentence a person to life
without the opportunity to make
amends for the pain and
suffering he or she has caused,
or the opportunity to be a
productive member of the
community, is cruel."*

- Person currently serving LWOP

*"Ending life without parole
brings hope to a system. Sends
message that we don't give up
on people. People can change."*

- Person currently serving LWOP

Massachusetts has the highest percentage of people serving life without parole sentences in the nation, followed by Louisiana. As of July 26, 2021, 1,013 people in Massachusetts are serving LWOP out of less than 6,000 criminally sentenced people in DOC custody. This means that one out of every six people incarcerated in Massachusetts state prisons is foreclosed from the opportunity to ever apply for parole.

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Continued

Of the people serving LWOP, 600, or 59%, are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) though only 28% of the Massachusetts population are BIPOC. Also known as “slow death row,” this sentence strips people of their hope and denies the human capacity to change. LWOP sentences waste taxpayer dollars and do not actually promote public safety.

Please join us on October 14th at 12:00pm to learn about An Act to Reduce Mass. Incarceration (H1797) which would allow all people serving life sentences the opportunity for a parole hearing after serving 25 years.

Featured Speakers



State Representative Liz Miranda, sponsor of An Act to Reduce Mass. Incarceration



State Representative Jay Livingstone, sponsor of An Act to Reduce Mass. Incarceration



Janet Connors, Survivor and Restorative Justice Practitioner



Keyon Sprinkle, exoneree



Karter Reed, Advocate, Activist, Mentor, Co-Chairperson of the Campaign to End Life Without Parole (CELWOP)



Regina Daughtry, Formerly incarcerated lifer, community organizer, working on transforming harm into creativity



More speakers to be announced including policy experts, survivors, and people directly impacted by Life Without Parole sentencing

Additional Information:



[PLS Fact Sheet on H.1797 and Life Without Parole](#)



[DOC LWOP Statistics July 2021](#)



[Norfolk Lifers Group Report on LWOP Sentencing by Race/Ethnicity/Age](#)



[Norfolk Lifers Group Fast Facts: The Escalating and Staggering Cost of Incarceration in MA State Prisons](#)



[NEIP Fact Sheet: LWOP](#)



[NEIP Fact Sheet: Race and LWOP](#)



[NEIP Fact Sheet: What is Life Without Parole?](#)



[NEIP Fact Sheet: What is Restorative Justice?](#)



[NEIP Fact Sheet: The Cost of LWOP](#)



[The Case for Why Violent Offenders Deserve Parole by Joseph Dole](#)



[Sentencing Project, No End In Sight: America's Enduring Reliance on Life Imprisonment](#)



[Video: 'I missed it all' What This Former Prisoner Is Fighting For](#)

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PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES
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NOTE:

This briefing is Part 2 of a two-part series on parole reform in Massachusetts. You can find a recording of Part 1: Reforming Parole and Medical Parole to Enhance Public Safety [here](#).