September 2023

Dear Governor Pritzker, Lt. Governor Stratton, and Legislative Leaders,

The time has come for Illinois to address the serious problems resulting from aging persons in its prison system. The elder parole bill -- HB 2045 -- would provide a parole process for those who are 55 years or older and have served at least 25 years in prison. These are people who are the least likely to re-offend due to aging out of crime, and the most expensive to house in prison due to the need to provide medical care for the diseases of old age and end-of-life care.

Elder parole is needed in Illinois for the following reasons:

- The Illinois prison population has been steadily aging.
- Older inmates are often sick and infirm.
- Illinois is not providing the medical care that is needed by these aging inmates.
- A court-appointed Monitor has identified elder abuse in Illinois prisons where preventable deaths have occurred due to the State's failure to provide proper medical care.
- The medical care that is being provided is very costly to the State and the cost will only get worse as more inmates age.
- The Joe Coleman Medical Release Act is not solving the problem because too few people are sick enough to qualify and most of those who qualify are being denied release.
- Many older inmates have maintained close ties to their friends and families, who will support them in transitioning to life outside prison.

Please enact HB 2045.

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Signature

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Printed Name

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Illinois County of Residence or Employment

Note: Please return signed letters to elderparole.org, P.O. Box 4, Chicago, IL 60690 or scan and send to admin@elderparole.org, and the letters will be compiled and distributed to appropriate public officials.