

ACTION ALERT

Tell the CA Legislature to Oppose SB 286 And Protect Elderly Parole



Spread the word widely in your networks!

What is SB 286: SB 286 (Jones) seeks to exclude people of first and second degree murder as well as those convicted of various sex offenses from California's Elderly Parole program.

Why SB 286 is harmful: SB 286 attacks a modest, yet helpful and necessary geriatric parole program in California that brought compassion, common sense and fiscal responsibility to our prison system during the height of California's mass incarceration crisis. California's current Elderly Parole program is extremely modest and has an overly stringent standard of release, evidenced by a low grant rate of less than 14% that keeps hundreds of low-risk elderly people in prison where their medical needs cannot be met and are costing taxpayers millions each year.

In addition, the recidivism rate for Elderly Parole is extremely low across conviction types—in fact, elderly people released through the parole hearing process have the lowest recidivism rates in our prison system—showing this bill is politically motivated rather than intended to solve a public safety issue. If SB 286 were to pass, it would decimate California's Elderly Parole program, given that the majority of people serving life sentences who are eligible have murder convictions.

How to take action:

SB 286 (Jones) will be heard on Tuesday, April 8th, ahead of tomorrow's vote and day of you can do the following:

1. **Call and email** members of the Senate Public Safety Committee (contact info below) urging them to vote NO on SB 286 (Jones)
2. **Attend the hearing** in person tomorrow, April 8th @ 9:30am to give a 'me neither' in opposition

Hearing logistics for in person attendance:

Location: 1021 O St, Room 2200 (Capitol Annex Swing Space)

Parking: Capitol Garage on 10th & L St

Agenda: [here](#)

Tips: Get there early to get a seat as there will be a lot of people attending in support of the bill.

3. **Share widely** in your networks!

Call / email script:

My name is (insert name) and I am a (insert connection to elderly parole, or your title & organization), contacting you to urge that you vote NO on SB 286. (Mention if you are a direct constituent of the Senator's district.) This bill threatens to dismantle California's Elderly Parole program, which will cost millions in taxpayer dollars with no public safety benefit to back it up. Elderly Parole is a modest, common-sense program in California that helps to ensure that low-risk elderly people are not stuck in prison, costing unnecessary state dollars. This program has had an unexceptionally low recidivism rate of around 2%, showing that the program can and should be safely expanded rather than decimated in this challenging fiscal climate. [Insert any personal or organizational anecdotes of the positive impact of Elderly Parole]. For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on SB 286.

Phone Numbers and Emails to Contact for Senate Public Safety Committee Members:

- **Senator Anna Caballero**
 - Public Safety Staffer: Paloma Elizalde, paloma.elizalde@sen.ca.gov
 - Office number: (916) 651-4014
- **Senator Lena Gonzales**
 - Public Safety Staffer: Caila Pedroncelli, caila.pedroncelli@sen.ca.gov
 - Office number: (916) 651-4033
- **Senator Sasha Renee Perez**
 - Public Safety Staffer: Cayley Chan, cayley.chan@sen.ca.gov
 - Office number: (916) 651-4025
- **Senator Scott Wiener**
 - Public Safety Staffer: Stella Fontus, stella.Fontus@sen.ca.gov
 - Office number: (916) 651-4011
- **Senator Jesse Arreguin (Committee Chair)**
 - Public Safety Staffer: Luis Amezcua, luis.amezcua@sen.ca.gov
 - Office number: (916) 651-4007