



February 8, 2023

A TRANSPARENT AND INCLUSIVE CONVERSATION ABOUT ABOLISHING “LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE SENTENCING” IN R.I.

As legislators are soon to convene into Committee for hearings on current legislation introduced for 2023 session, are Rhode Islander’s aware of H5149 “CRIMINAL OFFENCES HOMICIDE” currently assigned to House Judiciary.

More specifically, do the families of victims that were brutally and heinously murdered , involving torture and unspeakable acts, aware of this legislation on the horizon ?

The President of the Brotherhood of Corrections references this bill being “an opportunity for some signed onto the bill for conversation”, the Alliance asks, if the victims’ families, friends, and communities were invited to the table for this conversation. The Alliance wonders if our legislators considered just how many lives will be impacted by this conversation.

Are our legislators aware of the trauma that victims loved one’s will feel as the reality of their lives moving forward from these nightmares collide with the prospect of attending parole hearings of monsters once promised to be locked away from society never to reoffend again now reversed.

The bill Explanation reads: Abolish penalty of life without parole and amend/repeal all sections of the general laws regulating prisoners serving life without parole. This act would take effect on shall be given prospective and retroactive effect for all offenses occurring on or after January 1,1991.

The Alliance has compiled a “short stack” of homicide cases retroactively impacted by this bill if passed into law. We ask if our legislators are aware of just how many cases that may be.

There are other elements of this bill such as “work release and furlough” for life w/out parole and inmate opportunities on this conversation table. Perhaps it is time to have a public introduction and dialogue concerning all the benefits afforded to the criminals in this bill as well as promises made and broken to victims and their families .

Most importantly it is time to hear from the victims families, friends, and communities that will be further victimized by the actions undertaken with passage of this bill into law.

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