

TESTIMONY BY DINO CAROSELLI, DIN: 93A8121

BEFORE THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE

**COMMITTEE ON CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTION HEARING ON
HOW THE ELDER PAROLE AND FAIR & TIMELY PAROLE BILLS WILL IMPROVE
PAROLE RELEASE LAWS AND PUBLIC SAFETY IN NEW YORK STATE**

My name is Dino Caroselli and I am currently 66 years of age. I have been incarcerated for more than 30 years, with another 30 years remaining before I am eligible for parole. There wasn't much of an opportunity for me while growing up. I was told and believed that I would never survive living past 13 years of age. I grew up poor, and all the incidents I was arrested for were money related. I never physically injured anyone in the commission of my crimes. I grew up with the misconception that whatever was necessary, you did to survive in life. While in prison, I later discovered that this was not true. The crimes I committed were wrong, and just because I didn't physically injure anyone in my crimes, doesn't mean that they went uninjured. I truly am sorry and continue to atone for what I did. I have learned a lot since those days, and am doing what I can to redeem myself.

The past 30 years haven't been all good. I had a difficult time adjusting to prison life and coming to the realization of dying in this horrible place. But, I still continuously try to do better. I'm enrolled in the Hudson Link college program here in Sing Sing. I currently work for the Catholic Chaplain as a clerk and altar boy. I attended many anti-violence summits, AIDS & hepatitis counseling courses, and I volunteer my free time to different organizations. I do my best to mentor young incarcerated individuals working for years as a program assistant for the

Community Orientation & ReEntry Program. I spend my time mentoring incarcerated individuals with mental health issues to prepare for their community release.

When I first heard of the Elder Parole & The Fair and Timely Parole bills, they were a breath of fresh air. For the first time in three decades I felt alive. I thought to myself “wow, an opportunity to really redeem myself and to take care of my wife, before I die.”

The Department of Corrections & Community Supervision is warehousing an elderly population of educated individuals. Individuals that are rehabilitated and would be productive members of society if only they had a second chance. They could be mentors to to the misguided youth of today, rather than wasting away in dungeons, at a cost of millions in taxpayer dollars every year.

I beg you to please consider these very important bills, not only for the individuals incarcerated, but for the families that saw something good in these individuals and stuck by their side for decades upon decades. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Dino Caroselli

93A8121

Sing Sing Correctional Facility