

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING
54TH DISTRICT

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
ON RURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

June 14, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On October 28th 1980, 16 year old Paula Bohovesky was sexually assaulted and then murdered by Richard LaBarbera and Robert McCain. Paula was a young woman in the prime of her life. She had hopes, dreams, and aspirations to be an artist. Her loss not only devastated her family, but also everyone she touched during her short life. This July, Mr. LaBarbera will be released from prison at the direction of the New York State Parole Board. This is just one more example of why we need to reform the parole board and enact legislation that protects the rights of crime victims and their families.

Paula Bohovesky's mother, Lois, has spoken out against the decision and I urge you to join our effort to oppose this release and condemn it publicly. Parole Board Commissioners have an important responsibility and they must be held accountable when they release remorseless criminals, cop killers, and predators into our communities. This year we heard a great deal about a Justice Agenda. Unfortunately, the rights of victims and their families have not been addressed as part of this agenda. We need justice for these people too.

Paula Bohovesky was not allowed the chance to live out the full potential of her life, so why should Richard LaBarbera and Robert McCain be given that opportunity? According to media reports they have both attempted to place blame on one another and have not taken full accountability for their actions. Even if they one day decide to take responsibility and show remorse for this heinous crime, they do not deserve the opportunity to lead a fulfilling, rewarding life within our state.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important and time sensitive issue. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out my office at 518-455-2366 or helming@nysenate.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Helming".

Pamela A. Helming
Senator, 54th District

