

My name is Ronald Dennis, and I am a formally incarcerated man who served over 30 years in prison on a 15 to life sentence. I am here today because I don't believe it's fair to keep hitting individuals over and over again just because of the nature of your crime. When a judge sentences an individual with a minimum it is for the nature of the crime he committed. When that individual appears in front of the parole board many years later with all the requirements that he or she has earned during his or her sentence the parole board disregards their achievements and hits them with the maximum time allowed of 2 years for the nature of their crime. It's like giving the parole board the power to resentence what the judge has already set forth. In fact, the nature of the crime is and will not ever change. But individuals do!!! Individuals who do. The parole board disregarded my achievements and made me do more than double my minimum of 15 years. It's a fact that the percentage of men and women who serve life sentences do not come back to prison, and that percentage is very high. I came home in July 2019...and I successfully made it off parole on the first request. That right there should tell you something about where I am in my life. But most important it should tell you that I would never commit another crime...not because I am afraid to go back to prison...but in fact it's because it would be wrong to do so.

THANK YOU