

**Testimony By: Stanley Bellamy, DIN: 87A1668**

**Before: The New York State Senate Committee on Crime Victims,  
Crime & Correction Hearing on how the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole Bill will  
improve Parole release laws and public safety in New York.**

Hello, Ladies & Gentlemen. My name is Stanley Bellamy # 87A1668. I am 60-years old. I have been incarcerated for over 37 years for a crime I committed in 1985. I am one of the incarcerated individuals the passage of the Elder Bill and Fair & Timely Parole Act will affect. Without the passage of the Elder Bill, I will not see a parole board until 2048, and in all likelihood died in prison.

During my incarceration I have not only taken responsibility for my actions, but also sought to develop and facilitate programs that helped others examine the hurt, pain, and suffering their crimes caused their victim's families and their own.

Moreover, I have taught personal development, manhood responsibility, leadership dynamics and a host of other programs while attending college and earning an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts in 2017, and a Bachelor's in Social Science in 2019.

However, I am not writing to highlight a long list of my accomplishments. Instead, I am writing to talk about the importance of redemption, the importance of fostering hope, of recognizing that within the human spirit there is always room for change.

As a staunch advocate for inclusion of more restorative justice approaches to crime and punishment, I ask this esteemed body to base its decision on whether to support and pass the Elder and Fair & Timely Parole bills on the premise that people can and often do change. That when given hope, the good in someone will always outshine the bad.

I, and thousands of incarcerated elders are depending on you to give us that hope. We are praying that you recognize and acknowledge that redemption is real, and that the people we were ten, fifteen, twenty, and thirty years ago are not the same people we are today. We are now grandparents, fathers, mothers, mentors, teachers, and mature adults who are asking for a chance to reunite with our families and community as rehabilitative assets and not the socially unacceptable liabilities we once were.

Statistics show that elders, once released, are the least likely to reoffend, which means that allowing us to appear before a parole board in order to be re-evaluated on who we are now does not undermine public safety.

Therefore, we are asking you to support and push for passage of the Elder and Fair & Timely Parole bills. Many of our lives and future potential depends on your actions. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Stanley Bellamy

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