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Good Morning Senator(s) and assembled guests. My name is Pat Saunders and I'm here on behalf of the Suffolk County PBA and our President Noel DiGerolamo. Thank you for allowing me to speak on this important issue.

I begin my remarks with 2 historical dates. In 1817, New York became the 1<sup>st</sup> state in the nation to enact a "good time" law with respect to prison sentencing. On July 1, 1930 the Division of Parole was established in the executive branch of New York. In the ensuing 88 years, parole for serious felony crimes has fluctuated with New York State's death penalty arguments.

With 201 years of history, New York has the most experience with parole in the nation. Unfortunately, over the course of the last 50 years we have wrestled with the issue of a death sentence, life without parole and parole for the crimes we hold as the most vicious. One theme continues to resonate among all the arguments however. The killing of a Police Officer performing his official duties deserves the most stringent of penalties. In the last 2 years, some of our residents have seemingly forget that. A Police Officer at work is not an individual, they are a representative of society and our laws and norms. Aggression towards them is an act against society and demonstrates either complete disregard or mental illness. After adjudication, if a defendant is found competent and guilty, the process of parole must take in account the people's wish to incarcerate the subject to keep society safe.

The killings of Police Officers Waverly Jones, Joseph Piagentini, and Trooper Emerson Dillon, amongst countless others, were not heat of the moment accidental killings. They were planned and vicious assassinations and were found to be so by a jury. It boggles the mind how a subject who committed the ultimate act of evil against another person, and by extension all of society, could ever truly be reformed. The benefit of the doubt should be given to the victims and their families and coworkers, the victims were contributing to society and helping others, the convicted felons were not.

New York State's Correctional system population is rife with prisoners who are eligible for parole. Serial killers David Berkowitz and Joel Rifkin, Spree killers Colin Ferguson and Julio Gonzalez, numerous Cop killers, whom I cannot and will not dignify by name, along with the infamous Long Island diner felons who committed more than 100 felonies in a tragic morning. Is the Parole system really designed to let these felons out? As a lifelong New Yorker, I certainly would hope not. Reading the parole hearing minutes of the murderer of P.O.'s Jones and Piagentini showed me no sense of remorse or responsibility. Instead, the felon spoke of his role in a war against society. Do we really believe those feelings ever change? If these prisoners are purportedly helping other inmates, I say leave them in prison and let them continue. The risk to us is too great to take a chance.

I'll conclude with an example of parole gone wrong. In 1967 Joe "Mad Dog" Sullivan was convicted of manslaughter. In 1971, he escaped the Attica Correctional Facility (the first person having done so) and was recaptured 6 weeks later. Amazingly, he was paroled in 1975. Over the course of the next 6 years, he was suspected in close to 20 murders as a contract killer. In 1981, he was convicted of 3 murders and died in prison. Parole is a privilege, not a right, and should be reserved for non-violent offenses that can be rehabilitated, not subjects evincing the blatant disregard of human life. Thank you.