

What Can We Do to Fix this Broken System?

Share Your Story of Parole Board Neglect

This January, during the first week of the 2014 legislative session, we will deliver 500 letters to Albany from people in prison and their families about New York's broken parole system. We will create a public installation in the Capitol Building to make sure our elected officials hear us loud and clear about the devastation the parole system has on the lives of our families and to ensure that they no longer walk away from our demand for a solution – the SAFE Parole Act. Help us gather these letters by helping now:

Send a Letter Now: Write a letter about your personal experience with the New York parole system. Send one copy to Senator Gallivan and one copy to Milk Not Jails. We've included a sample letter with Gallivan's address and some ideas to help stimulate your letter writing.

Ask Friends and Family to Write a Letter Now: Spread the word! Ask your friends, family and community to share their personal experiences or to send a form letter. Mail this flyer to your loved one in prison or someone else you know and ask them to write a letter as well. They can also get in touch with us at (917) 719-6455 or action@milknotjails.org.

Deliver a Letter on January 21, 2014: Join us as we head to Albany to hand deliver the letter you sent to Milk Not Jails, along with 500 or more other letters the week of Martin Luther King Day (Tuesday, January 21, 2013). We want the entire legislature to be aware of all of the heart-breaking stories that flooded Senator Gallivan's office over the winter and hold them accountable to change the system now!

This action is being organized by Milk Not Jails, a statewide, grassroots alliance working to end mass incarceration in New York State. This action is part of a year of events we are organizing to pass the SAFE Parole Act in 2014. Interested in learning more or getting involved? Contact us at (917) 719-6455 or action@milknotjails.org

- SAMPLE LETTER -

Senator Patrick Gallivan
947 LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Patrick Gallivan,

I am writing to urge you to support and sponsor the Safe and Fair Evaluation (SAFE) Parole Act. Our state's current parole process is not working. Thousands of people languish in prison even after clearly demonstrating their readiness to return to their families. Denying parole applications to people who have prepared to transition back to their communities by participating in educational and vocational programs makes the process feel hopeless. And, as you know, the parole board is not currently required to give any guidance to people in prison whose parole applications they reject.

- *Write your personal story of parole denial here. Describe how hard you or someone you know has worked to prepare to return to your family and to make a positive contribution in your community.*
- *Mention how many times you've been denied parole.*
- *Describe how frustrating it is that the Parole Board doesn't give any feedback or outline concrete steps you can take to get parole.*
- *Mention the family and lawyers who have worked tirelessly to help you.*
- *Remind him that you can't do anything about the nature of your crime.*

We are asking you to improve the parole process by increasing parole board accountability and empowering people in prison to prepare for parole. We need this reform to strengthen our communities and to reunite our families. We need the SAFE Parole Act. As a former Parole Board member and Chair of the Senate Crime Committee, your leadership is imperative. Please help us achieve these changes by sponsoring this legislation today.

Sincerely,

Please address two envelopes—one to Sen. Gallivan and one to us at Milk Not Jails—and mail them to the following addresses. And be sure to give this flyer to a friend who you think should be involved.

Senator Patrick Gallivan 947 LOB Albany, NY 12247 gallivan@nysenate.gov	Milk Not Jails 497 Quincy Street Brooklyn, NY 11221 action@milknotjails.org
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Resource List

Family Support

Coalition of Families of NY Lifers

PO Box 1314
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
liferfamilies@yahoo.com

NY Inmate Families Forum

www.newyorkinmatefamilies.org

Prison Families Anonymous

350 Veterans Memorial Hwy.
Commack, NY 11725
631-943-0441
pfa.longisland@gmail.com
www.pfa-li.com

Prison Families of New York

www.prisonfamiliesofnewyork.org

Reentry Services

Fortune Society

29-76 Northern Blvd
Queens, NY 11101
212-691-7554
www.fortunesociety.org

Osborne Association

175 Remsen St
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-637-6560
www.osborneny.org

Legal Services

Center for Community Alternatives

25 Chapel Street, 7th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-858-9658
www.communityalternatives.org

Legal Action Center

225 Varick Street
New York, NY 10014
212-243-1313
www.lac.org

Cheryl L Kates, private attorney that specializes in parole denial. She does not provide free legal services.

PO Box 734
Victor, NY 14564
585-820-3818
cheryl6401@aol.com

Women's Resources

Hour Children

13-07 37th Ave
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718)-433-4724

Women's Prison Association

110 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10003
646-292-7764

Do You Know Someone Who's Been Denied Parole?

You are not alone. We need to change the system.

Every year thousands of people locked up in New York's prisons participate in educational and vocational programs to prepare themselves for their parole hearings, so they can return home. Tragically, the Parole Board usually denies people parole due to the "nature of their crime," something they cannot change. We need a parole system that gives people a second chance and a set of tools to be able to return to their communities.

What is the SAFE Parole Act?

The Safe And Fair Evaluation (SAFE) Parole Act will make major changes to the parole system. This legislation will empower parole applicants by requiring the Parole Board to detail actions to be taken, programs to be completed, or changes in performance in order to qualify for parole release. It will make the parole board accountable for those decisions by requiring the State to provide the applicant access—within 90 days—to the programs necessary to fulfill the Parole Board's requirements. The SAFE Parole Act will mean that the Parole Board can no longer deny an application based on the "nature of the crime", but instead will require parole to be granted based on the applicant's good conduct while confined, and their preparedness for reintegration into their communities. We need to get this legislation passed to reunite families and to give hope to thousands of incarcerated men and women.



Milk Not Jails

497 Quincy St.

Brooklyn, NY 11221

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