#### **EMERGING SOLIDARITY**

### NEWSLETTER



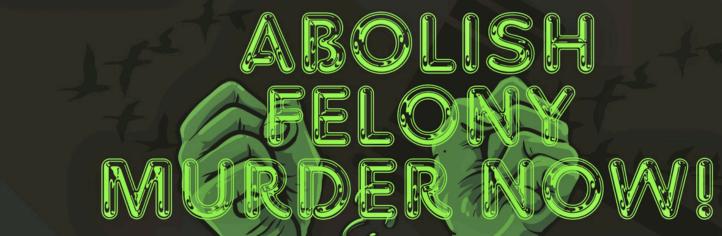
#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

-YOU WILL LEARN HOW JUSTICE KEEPS US SAFER

-YOU WILL ALSO LEARN UPDATES ON CASES THAT ARE IMPERATIVE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE RRFORM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL NOT JUST SELECTIVE JUSTICE

- YOU WILL ALSO LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO TO REALLY HELP US ACHIEVE TRUE JUSTICE FOR ALL AND HOW TO SHOW SOLIDARITY TO THE PEOPLE ENDURING THIS CRUEL AND UNJUST SENTENCE





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### UPDATES ON LEGISLATIVE BILLS

HB 443 Referred to <u>Judiciary</u>, Feb. 3, 2025 SB 387 Referred to Judiciary, March 6, 2025



THESE TWO BILLS ARE VERY
IMPORTANT TO GIVE LIFERS A
CHANCE AT PAROLE ELIGIBILITY AND
END FELONY MURDER

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# PENNSYLVANIANS LETS FIGHT FOR PAROLE ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFERS

### WENEED TO PASS HOUSE BILL 443 AND SENATE BILL 387

END SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE FOR NOT TAKING A LIFE, WHY SHOULD YOURS BE TAKEN FROM YOU AND YOUR



### BREAKING NEWS

## NEW BILL FOR PAROLE ELIGIBILITY

RINTER'S NO. 1679

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### HOUSE BILL

No. 1441 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY DAWKINS, WAXMAN, ISAACSON, BURGOS, GIRAL, HILL-EVANS, RABB, SANCHEZ, MAYES, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, D. WILLIAMS, KENYATTA, K.HARRIS, RIVERA, GUZMAN, SCHLOSSBERG AND GREEN, MAY 12. 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 12, 2025

#### AN ACT

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses), 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in authorized dispositio of offenders, further providing for sentence of persons unde the age of 18 for murder, murder of an unborn child and murder of a law enforcement officer; in sentencing, further providing for sentences for second and subsequent offenses; and, in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing for parole power.
10	The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11	hereby enacts as follows:
12	Section 1. Section 1102.1(a), (b) and (d) introductory
13	paragraph of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes
14	are amended to read:
15	§ 1102.1. Sentence of persons under the age of 18 for murder,
16	murder of an unborn child and murder of a law
17	enforcement officer.
18	(a) First degree murderA person who has been convicted
19	after June 24, 2012, of a murder of the first degree, first
20	degree murder of an unborn child or murder of a law enforcement

### REPRESENTATIVE JASON DAWKINS INTRODUCED ON MAY 12TH 2025

# Solidarity & Criminal Justice Reform for Lifers in Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania, where over 5,000 individuals serve life without parole, solidarity has become the heartbeat of criminal justice reform. Families, advocates, and incarcerated individuals are uniting across prison walls, demanding second chances and dignity for those long forgotten by the system. Lifers, many of whom have spent decades behind bars, often become mentors and role models for troubled youth. Having lived through similar struggles, they offer real guidance on coping, growth, and making better decisions. Criminal justice reform, especially for Lifers, allows families to reunite, rebuild, and restore broken ties. Studies show that granting parole opportunities to rehabilitated Lifers reduces prison overcrowding and does not increase crime. In fact, it fosters accountability and community trust. True reform puts human dignity at the center. As Pennsylvanians stand together for change, they redefine justice not as punishment without end, but as a path toward healing and public safety.





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Larry Krasner Wins Primary Election for Third Term as District Attorney

CONGRATULATIONS AND EXCELLENT JOB DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER HIGGIOF RANGE HE CALED

# JUSTICE MAKES US SAFER PROMISES MADE PROMISES KEPT



# FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE: HOW FAMILIES CAN EMPOWER CHANGE FOR LOVED ONES SERVING LIFE FOR FELONY MURDER WHY?

When a loved one is sentenced to life without parole under the felony murder rule especially when wrongfully convicted it doesn't just impact the incarcerated person. It devastates families, steals futures, and upends entire communities. My loved one has spent nearly 30 years trapped in the belly of the beast condemned to die in prison for a crime he did not commit. Every day that passes, he pays with his life for an injustice that the system refuses to correct.

#### But we refuse to be silent

Family members have power. We are the voices they cannot silence, the witnesses to their truth. We write letters, attend rallies, speak out on social media, organize with others, and demand meetings with lawmakers. We shed light on the inhumanity of life without parole especially for felony murder, where someone can be sentenced to die in prison without ever taking a life.

This sentence is wrong. It's cruel when applied broadly, and it is unbearable when applied to someone innocent.

If you're a family member impacted by this injustice, don't lose hope.

Join the fight. Demand justice. Hold legislators, prosecutors, and courts

accountable. We are not powerless we are the movement. Be

empowered. Be strong. Be the change you want to see. Because their

lives depend on it.

### DECADES OF INJUSTICE: HOW MANY MORE LIVES MUST BE DESTROYED BEFORE WE SAY ENOUGH?

It is beyond heartbreaking it is enraging—that we must still plead for justice in a system that was designed and meant to fail us under false pretenses it was said to be justice for all this isnt justice for all its selected justice if youre rich or of a certain skin color, but if you are from my community or from a black, brown or less fortunate communities you're pretty much screwed. For decades, detectives in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania especially in the 70s, 80s, 90s, and into the 2000s used their badges not to protect and serve, but to frame and falsely imprison people just to close a case. They stole lives, destroyed families, and shattered communities all to pad their reputations, all for another closed case, another number on a board. They didn't investigate they fabricated, coerced and unjustly imprisoned innocent men and women.

This isn't just a wrong it is a monstrous betrayal. One wrongful conviction doesn't affect just one person. It tears through the lives of so many. The victims' families are denied the truth and real justice when the wrong person is locked away. Where is the peace in that? Where is the justice?

Then there's the person falsely accused their life snatched, their dreams crushed, their future stolen. Someone's father, Someone's mother, Someone's son or daughter. Taken away from the people who love them, from communities that needed them. And what about the families left behind? The children who grow up without guidance? The parents who grow old without the comfort of their child? The siblings who carry grief and rage like a scar?

I know this pain intimately. My uncle, who lived with learning disabilities, was accused and sentenced to 23 years for something he wasn't capable of doing. They didn't care. They didn't listen. He was cleared but only after decades of stolen time, after we were robbed of him for most of our lives.

And now, another loved one an innocent man has spent nearly 30 years in prison for something he did not do. Almost three decades. How do you calculate the loss in years like that? You can't. It's too big. Too brutal.

And we are not alone. There are countless others. People who are still behind bars. People who have died in prison waiting for justice that never came. Families holding onto hope like a lifeline, only to be met with silence, denial, or indifference.

We are horrified. We are devastated. And we are furious.

This has to stop. We must stop allowing detectives to use appearance, disability, or the zip code someone lives in as grounds to destroy their lives. We must end this corruption. We must demand accountability. No one should have the power to frame another human being and sleep at night knowing the truth was buried to protect a lie.

Pennsylvania, we must rise. We must right this unbearable, egregious, decades-long wrong. We must fight so that no more names are added to the list of the lost and wrongfully condemned.

Justice must no longer be a privilege for the few. It must become a right protected and preserved for everyone.

Enough is enough.

### A Life Without Mercy: Why It's Time to End LWOP for Felony Murder

Imagine being sentenced to die in prison for a crime you didn't intend, or in some cases, didn't even know would happen. That is the grim reality for thousands of people across the United States serving life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) under the felony murder rule—a legal doctrine that allows people to be held equally responsible for a death that occurred during the commission of a felony, even if they didn't cause it.

For decades, this rule has swept up young people, people from marginalized communities, and those who were often followers—not leaders—in tragic moments. Many of them were teenagers or barely adults, caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, participating in a robbery, burglary, or other felony that spiraled out of control. Yet despite not pulling a trigger or intending anyone harm, they were condemned to die behind bars.

But the tide is beginning to turn.

In 2021, Colorado became a beacon of hope, eliminating mandatory life without parole for felony murder and replacing it with sentences ranging from 16 to 48 years. The state also eased the requirements for an affirmative defense—giving more people a fair chance to explain their role and defend themselves against the harshest punishments.

Then in May 2023, Minnesota followed, passing a law to ensure that felony murder charges could only be pursued against individuals who were major participants in the underlying crime and acted with extreme indifference to human life. It was a crucial step toward separating those who intended violence from those who didn't.

Other states, like Illinois, Kentucky, are engaging in similar discussions and reforms. In Illinois, reforms now prevent people from being charged with felony murder when the death was caused by a third party, such as police. In Pennsylvania, lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow people sentenced to LWOP under felony murder to become eligible for parole—offering a lifeline to those who have spent decades trying to prove they are more than their worst mistake.

These reforms are not about ignoring harm or denying accountability. They're about creating a justice system that sees people as people. That recognizes youth, trauma, coercion, and the power of transformation. That acknowledges that some people may have committed a felony—but not a murder—and should not be punished as though they did.

Every sentence of life without parole is a sentence that says a person is beyond redemption. But we know that's not true. We've seen individuals turn their lives around, mentor others, and contribute meaningfully to their communities from behind bars—often with no hope of ever going home.

It's time to end mandatory life sentences for felony murder. It's time to create paths to parole, individualized sentencing, and second chances.

Because justice should never mean giving up on people.

How You Can Help:

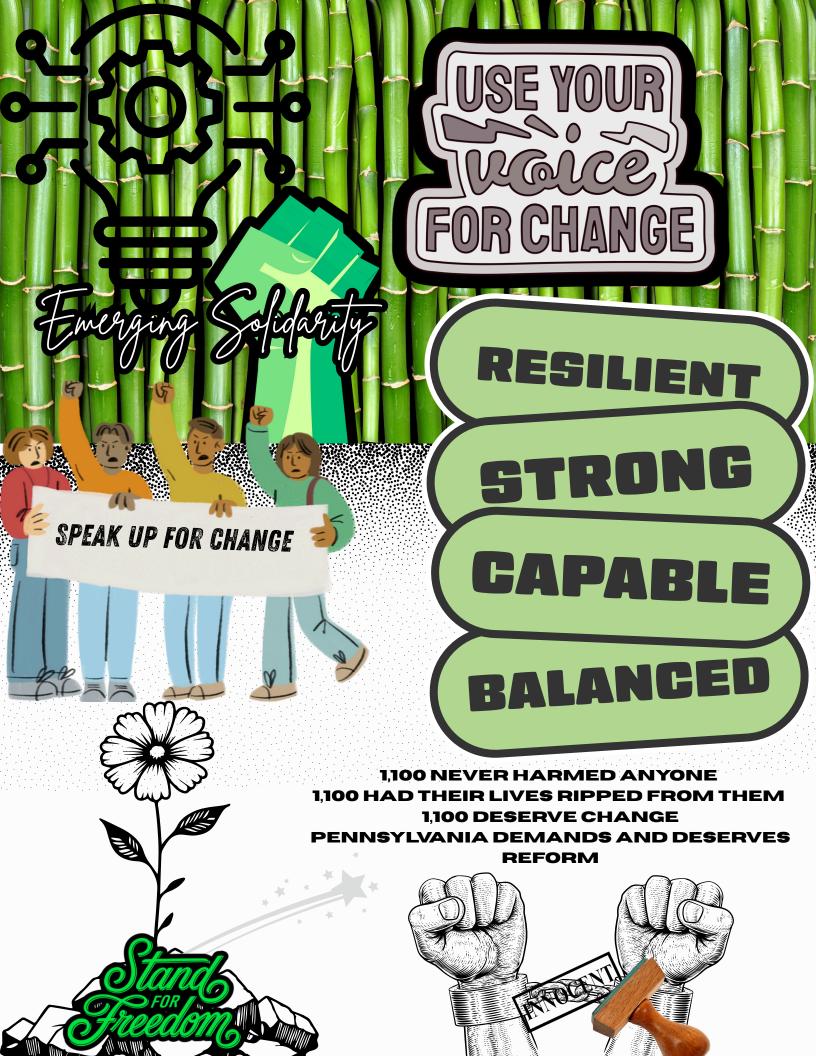
Support legislation in your state that reforms the felony murder rule.

Share the stories of those serving unjust LWOP sentences.

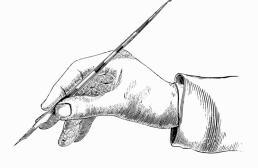
Donate to advocacy groups fighting for sentencing reform.

Call your lawmakers and demand a justice system that reflects fairness and humanity.

Together, we can bring hope to those the system forgot—and make justice truly just.



### EMERGING SOLIDARITY



#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

We hope that you have gained some valuable information and a sense of empowerment from our website and newsletter. Our mission is to advocate for freedom and to educate our loved ones on how to do the same. We invite you to fully utilize our site, and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out via our website chat. Our site administrator will get back to you at their earliest convenience. Stay Empowered!

-EMERGING SOLIDARITY

# We will always fight for our loved one and yours as well.



