

January 2, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Matthew O'Connor. I am 46 years old. I am serving 13 years.

This is what parole means to me-

I would have a way to provide for my children, emotionally and physically, also being there physically to help them with everything life throws their way, like school projects, building forts, repairing their bikes or vehicle, to give advice, or just give a hug and let them know everything will be OK.

I do my best to be productive with the opportunities that I have available, either to keep my mind busy or to learn new skills for a career. Navigating a situation like this that affects everyone you care about and those who care about you. It is more than difficult.

Having parole as an option would change one's outlook dramatically at the beginning. Or, at the end of your sentence it would open the door to many good opportunities to work to support your family to prove to yourself and loved ones, **people can change**. All it takes is an opportunity that parole would provide.

Parole is much more than freedom.

It is a second chance at life, a chance to rebuild, a chance to be a man.

Parole is something I would respect and make the most of.

Sincerely,

Matthew O'Connor, MSP