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It is clear that prisons create widespread harms beyond the residents themselves - long-term psychological and attachment-based harm on the family members of incarcerated. Prisons provide no real repair for harmed parties who have had to endure both the original harm as well as the drawn out legislative and bureaucratic process without opportunity for reconciliation, accountability, or repair. Long prison sentences increase rather than decrease the propensity for recurrence of crime upon release and a state without parole offers little to no incentive or motivation for positive, sustained life change - this is the stated goal of prisons, is it not? To 'rehabilitate' those who have committed harm and crime? By cutting off meaningful relationships, purpose, and connection with the outside, prisons cut off some of the biggest deterrents of harm. Seclusion, segregation, and confinement create deep and multilayered trauma on top of that which brought residents to commit their crime in the first place. The most effective form of trauma healing comes from being in relationship with even one safe, secure person. To promote a safer public where healing is the goal, we ought to prioritize connection over separation to enable the cycles of violence to be broken and the recurrence of harm and crime to stop. Prisons are not the answer. Parole is a meaningful step toward creating a scaffolded avenue for reconnection and reintegration into society for those who have demonstrated they are ready and prepared to take accountability for their actions and have made moves toward healing. Abolish life without parole - I've heard it called 'death by imprisonment' and no one should endure that. Residents are, after all, still human. We need to see them that way. We need to treat them as human. As you examine reestablishing parole, consider the reality that many returns to prison happens due to minor infractions of the mountainous bureaucratic stipulations and mandates surrounding parole and probation. Create realistic expectations that do not inadvertently cause unnecessary 'traps' to send people back to prison. I write this from a southern state, formerly the capital of the confederacy, Richmond, Virginia, where even our state has parole...