



FACT SHEET

STOP THE RELEASE OF CALIFORNIA'S WORST KILLERS

Proposed California Regulations Could Give Thousands of Violent Offenders a New Path to Release

The California Board of Parole Hearings has approved regulations that would create a new process allowing inmates to seek sentence reductions or commutations—including inmates sentenced to **Life Without the Possibility of Parole (LWOP)**.

WHO COULD BENEFIT?

These regulations could apply to some of California's most notorious offenders, including:

- Child murderers
- Serial killers
- Mass shooters
- Torture murderers
- Gang killers
- Hate-crime murderers
- Killers of police officers and firefighters

The only inmates automatically excluded are:

- Death row inmates
- Certain registered sex offenders

THOUSANDS OF INMATES COULD BE ELIGIBLE

According to Board of Parole Hearings projections:

- **2,456 inmates** could be immediately eligible when the regulations take effect.
 - Nearly **4,000 inmates** could be eligible by 2035.
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WHAT THIS MEANS FOR VICTIMS

Families who were told that an offender would spend the rest of his or her life in prison may now be forced to:

- Relive the trauma of the crime decades later
- Participate in new hearings and proceedings
- Oppose sentence reductions and commutations
- Endure years of uncertainty and emotional distress

For many victims, **LWOP and long-term sentences meant finality. These regulations take that finality away.**

NO NEW LAW. NO VOTE OF THE PEOPLE.

These sweeping changes are not being created through legislation approved by elected representatives or voters.

Instead, the regulations were adopted by the California Board of Parole Hearings—a board whose commissioners are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Every current BPH Commissioner was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom.

These politically appointed commissioners are attempting to create an entirely new release process through administrative regulations, despite the fact that the Legislature never enacted such a system and California voters never approved it.

WHY THIS MATTERS

These regulations could:

- Undermine victims' rights
- Re-traumatize surviving family members
- Erode confidence in the justice system
- Create a new pathway to release for offenders sentenced to die in prison

TAKE ACTION

The Criminal Justice Legal Foundation (CJLF) is building a statewide coalition of victims, survivors, law enforcement, prosecutors, and public safety advocates to oppose these regulations and pursue legal challenges.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ✓ Share this fact sheet
- ✓ Help identify victims and families who may be affected
- ✓ Join the coalition
- ✓ Support public education and legal efforts

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