



## SENTENCED TO DIE IN PRISON, DESPITE UNIQUE LIKELIHOOD OF REHABILITATION

**Twenty-five states and D.C. don't allow children to be sentenced to life without parole; six other states have no one serving these sentences.**

### **Why We Need to Abolish Life Without Parole Sentences (LWOP) for People 20 and Younger:**

- SCIENCE: Research studies have proven the brain continues developing until a person is around 25 years old.
- SCOTUS: The US Supreme Court has repeatedly emphasized children are “categorically less culpable” than adults and are **more capable of rehabilitation**.
- ILLINOIS COURTS: Illinois courts have affirmed SCOTUS and now face the difficult task of untangling decades of excessive sentencing.
- INTERNATIONAL LAW: The practice of sentencing children to LWOP violates Article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- RESEARCH: The recidivism rate is just 1.14% among people sentenced to juvenile LWOP and then subsequently released. We have found **no research that demonstrates LWOP sentences have a deterrent effect on crime**.

### **HB 1064 is the Solution to Abolish LWOP for most People 20 and Younger:**

- **We can build on recent legislative progress in Illinois to align our state with science, court decisions, and international standards.**
- HB 1064 creates an opportunity for people who were 20 and younger when convicted and sentenced to first-degree murder or a term of natural life imprisonment to be eligible for parole review. Youth could petition the Prisoner Review Board for parole consideration after serving 40 years or more of their sentences.
- This bill would prohibit LWOP sentences for most people who were age 20 and younger when their crimes were committed. **Young people could still serve life in prison.** This bill simply ensures they have a limited opportunity to be considered for parole. **The legislation would not be retroactive.**
- HB 1064 is a natural progression of legislation in Illinois to ensure no one 20 and younger is sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.