

**Please Support HB18-1109 (Weissman / Cooke):  
updating compassionate release parole statute**

**Purpose**

- Spend limited Department of Corrections (“DOC”) funds to incarcerate inmates who are a risk to public safety — not older, sick inmates who are not a risk and expensive to keep behind bars.

**Reasons to support the bill**

- Compassionate release applies to a very small number of DOC inmates – 40-50 / year.
- Multiple safeguards for public safety – statutory criteria; DOC discretion; parole board discretion.
- It is not necessary for public safety to incarcerate ill / terminal inmates.
- It is very expensive to incarcerate ill / terminal inmates – cost per inmate / per year in DOC is \$37,958 across all facilities – higher for inmates requiring extensive medical care (e.g. \$94,882 per inmate / per year at San Carlos Correctional Facility).

**What HB18-1109 Does / Does Not Do**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Current Law</b>	<b>HB 1109</b>
Eligibility (I)	60+ AND “suffering from a chronic infirmity, illness, condition, disease, or behavioral or mental health disorder”	55+ AND “suffering from a chronic infirmity, illness, condition, disease, or behavioral or mental health disorder”
Eligibility (II)	“suffers from a chronic, permanent, terminal, or irreversible physical illness, condition, disease, or a behavioral or mental health disorder that requires costly care or treatment”	<b>Same</b>
Eligibility (III)	N/A	“does not have a substantial probability of being restored to competency”
Referral to parole board	DOC discretion	<b>Same</b>
Offender risk assessment	“not likely to pose a risk to public safety”	<b>Same</b>
Length of parole, if granted	Set at time of sentencing	6-36 months at parole board discretion, not more than current statutory maximum
Exceptions	* Class 1 felonies, unless offense < 7/1/1990 and at least 20 years served; * Class 2 felony crimes of violence, unless at least 10 years served	<b>Same</b>

**Organization Positions**

- Colorado Psychiatric Society – SUPPORT
- American Civil Liberties Union - SUPPORT
- Department of Corrections – SUPPORT
- Department of Human Services – NEUTRAL
- Colorado District Attorneys Council - NEUTRAL