



**STRAIGHT
AHEAD!**

Monday, May 4—Call-in day info: Dem leaders need to run House Bill 443!

BACKGROUND

Please take a moment to make the calls below in support of HB 443!

On March 26, 2026, the PA Supreme Court issued a ruling that mandatory life-without-parole (LWOP) sentences for 2nd degree/felony murder were unconstitutional. They agreed with our side's argument that condemning someone to spend their entire life in prison, without them being convicted of any premeditation – or even knowledge that harm could be caused – constituted “cruel punishment” and therefore went against Pennsylvania's constitution. The Court ruling means that more than 1000 people in PA's prisons no longer have a constitutional death-by-incarceration/ LWOP sentence and need to be given a new sentence.

The Court gave the Pennsylvania legislature 120 days to fix this issue, during which the ruling is 'stayed' or on pause. For years, our groups have been pushing legislation that would allow as many people as possible the chance at parole as quickly as possible. In 2024, Chair of the PA House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee, Tim Briggs, agreed to sponsor HB 443, a bill that would allow everyone currently serving a 2nd degree sentence to see the parole board after 25 years; it would have no mandatory minimum for people convicted of 2nd degree homicide in the future.

Rep. Briggs and the House Judiciary Committee were prepared to vote on and advance this bill, but at the last minute, House Democratic leaders called off the vote. We need those leaders to reschedule the bill for a vote immediately. Democrats hold the majority in the PA House and most of them say they support second chances. Now we need to hold them to that.

TARGETS

- PA House Majority Leader, Rep. Matt Bradford
 - (717) 772-2572
 - (610) 270-1150 (Norristown office)
- PA Speaker of the House, Rep. Joanna McClinton
 - (717) 772-9850
 - (215) 748-6712 (West Philly office)
- PA House Appropriations chair, Rep. Jordan Harris
 - (717) 783-1540
 - (215) 952-3378 (South Philly office)



FRONT



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SCRIPT FOR PHONE CALLS

(NOTE: These phone calls can be very short, and it's fine to just get across the first couple sentences below; the point is to make sure the Representatives know lots of people care about and support this bill, so not everyone has to have long conversations. But you can keep talking to the person if you'd like and explain more why you think their support is so important; there are a few talking points below to help get you started, but you can add whatever you feel would be best.)

The main message!

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm calling about HB443, the felony murder bill. I want this bill to be listed for a vote and moved forward for the whole House to vote on, and I was disappointed to hear that Democratic leadership didn't want to let this bill run as quickly as possible.

Some other talking points:

- The sentence was already ruled unconstitutional by all the PA Supreme Court justices – both Democrat and Republican – so we shouldn't let politics interfere with justice.
- Pennsylvania is one of only a few states in the country that has a sentence as harsh as Pennsylvania's 2nd degree homicide rule, and Democrats should always be against mandatory minimums like this.
- Not acting on this issue prevents hundreds of mature, rehabilitated people from coming home to their communities. We shouldn't delay it any further.
- I believe in second chances and that everyone should be judged on their own merits. Life without parole sentences are always cruel and unreasonable and deny people's basic humanity and capacity for redemption.

I would like to see my Representatives do everything possible to move HB 443 to a vote. **Once you've had an opportunity to discuss my concerns with the Representative, can you please call me back at _____ [phone number] _____ to share their position on bringing HB 443 to a vote quickly?**