



News From
State Representative Dennis Reboletti

For Immediate Release
September 25, 2009

Contact: Rep. Dennis Reboletti
(630) 530-2730

Reboletti: Early Release of Inmates Goes Against State's Public Safety Priority

Addison, IL ... State Representative Dennis Reboletti (R-Elmhurst) calls Governor Quinn's plan to release 1,000 inmates before their criminal sentence shortsighted and offers an alternative plan that would reform Illinois prison system.

"Governor Quinn is wrong to call for the release of 1,000 inmates. The state's number one job is to provide public safety and the early release of these inmates without additional supervision creates a huge public safety risk for our communities," said Reboletti, who is a former prosecutor.

Quinn's plan does not include additional parole agents to monitor the released inmates. And has not released a list of what offenses would be included in the low-level offenders who could be eligible for early release.

"Quinn's plan is very ambiguous at this point and the savings are almost zero," he said.

Reboletti has sponsored a bill for the last two years that would create a partnership between the Department of Corrections and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to remove prisoners who have entered the country illegally. The program, known as Rapid REPAT (Removal of Eligible Parolees Accepted for Transfer) is currently used in New York and Arizona and other states are looking at implementing it as well.

"Instead of putting criminals back on the streets, our best bet is to team up with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to identify criminals who entered the U.S. illegally and are incarcerated in our prisons and jails. Once identified, the non-violent prisoners would be released from prison early in exchange for voluntarily returning to their country or origin," said Reboletti.

Reboletti said Illinois would benefit from the Rapid REPAT program.

“Since 1995, New York has saved more than \$152 million and Arizona has saved more than \$33 million in detention costs since 2005. At a time when the budgets for all Illinois government agencies are being scrutinized for any kind of cost-saving measure, I firmly believe the money saved from detention operation and related costs provided by Rapid REPAT and the early release of illegal prisoners would greatly impact the state’s financial situation,” said Reboletti.

For more information, please contact Rep. Reboletti at (630) 530-2730.

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