

How a new law is allowing prosecutors to look back at unjust prison sentences and bring people home. And what you can do now that it's going national.





# There are hundreds of thousands of people in prison serving unjust sentences who can be safely released.

Whether their sentences were too harsh, stemmed from outdated policies, or they have turned their lives around while on the inside, continued confinement is unjust.



No solution has called on the the one group of elected officials that puts people in prison — the same ones who could get them out: prosecutors.



Black and brown people are drastically overrepresented in U.S. prisons. Taxpayers are paying high costs to keep people incarcerated.



56%

of the U.S. prison population is <u>Black or Latinx</u>.

32%

of the U.S. population population is <u>Black or Latinx.</u>

Black people <u>are</u> incarcerated at

**5X** 

the rate of white people.

100K+

of taxpayer money is spent incarcerating just one person per year in the state of California.



### A New Solution: Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing

In 2018, a former prosecutor named Hillary Blout conceptualized and secured the passage of the first law in the country (AB 2942 in California) that would allow prosecutors to look back at unjust, excessive sentences. This is called Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing (PIR).

Now, her organization, **For The People**, works to make sure the law is actually being implemented. Since its inception, the movement has been spreading across the country. Recently, new states have begun adopting Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing to bring people back to their communities and families.



# Where is Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing Happening?

#### 2018

#### The first PIR bill in the country passes into law.

Former prosecutor Hillary Blout wrote, conceptualized and secured the passage of AB 2942 with support from Assembly member Phil Ting and testimony from DA Jeff Rosen.



#### 2019

### Washington state's PIR bill passes into law, modeled after CA's

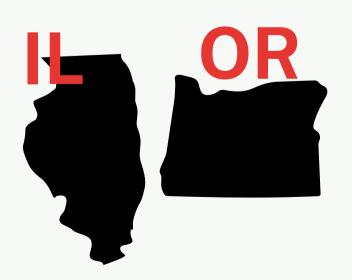
In 2019, Washington State becomes the second in the country to pass a PIR bill. Hillary Blout founds For The People to spread this movement widely.



#### 2021

### Seven states propose PIR bills. In Illinois and Oregon, they pass with For The People's support!

For The People partners with Cook County State's Attorney's Office in IL, and Multnomah County District Attorney's office in OR to help pass these bills.





In 2007, Kennard "Isaiah" Love was a young 22-year-old, struggling internally with issues from his youth. Not knowing how to channel his emotions, his struggles led him to committing robberies. He was convicted in Santa Clara County of multiple robberies and sentenced to 28 years in prison.

Being in a prison cell for hours on end, especially in solitary confinement, Isaiah was forced into introspection. With access to nothing but a pencil, paper, and books, all he could do was think about how he ended up in prison.

After more than a decade of reflection and rehabilitation, on December 11, 2020,

the Santa Clara District
Attorney's Office made a
recommendation to the court
that Isaiah be resentenced and
released early from prison. The
Court agreed. This was in large
part thanks to collaboration
with community leader Silicon
Valley De-Bug. Two days before
Christmas, Isaiah returned
home to his loving parents.

Today, Isaiah, now 35 years old, holds multiple degrees, multiple job offers, and a healed relationship with his family. As of late, he has been pursuing computer programming and running on his high school track. His community is thrilled to have him back home.

Sentenced to 28 years. Home After 13 years.





#### FOR THE PEOPLE

#### Steps for Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing



#### Step 1

Obtain your prison data and analyze the population. Identify criteria for resentencing.



#### Step 2

Review people's C-files and other rehabilitation documents. Contact the incarcerated person.



#### Step 3

Establish partnership with community-based organization, working with loved ones to develop reentry plans.



#### Step 4

Engage with the public defender's office and social workers.



#### Step 5

Prepare a complete work-up of the person's case.



#### Step 6

Engage victims, providing remorse and restorative justice opportunities.



#### Step 7

File motions then coordinate and attend court hearing.



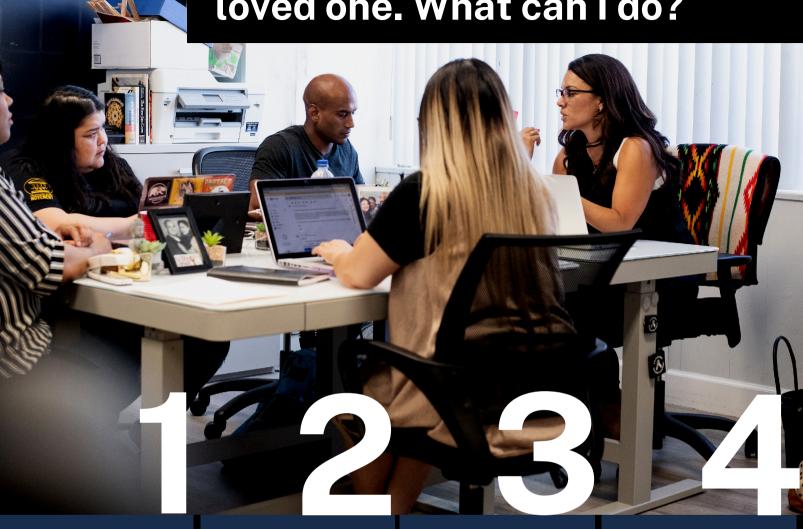
#### Step 8

Coordinate with prison for release.



WELCOME PERSON BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY!





### Know your case's county.

Know the person's correct county of conviction. Then, click here to see which counties have a PIR policy or procedure in place right now.

# See if your case is eligible for review.

Determine whether the person's case falls under the DA's criteria for resentencing. If it does, <u>click here</u> to find out more on preparing an enagement packet.

# Get community support.

Find a community organization near you spearheading participatory defense or other forms of relief. If your loved one has an upcoming parole hearing, click here.

# Contact the Public Defender.

You can also contact the Public Defender's office to get more information on what support they can offer.

# I'm a prosecutor. What can I do?



## Look for legislation.

Find out if there is existing legislation in your state or county for Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing (CA, WA, IL, OR). Find out more by clicking here.

### Look for workarounds.

Some counties have found legal workarounds to implement Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing. You can learn more by reaching out to For The People.

### Contact For The People.

For The People has supported the passage of legislation, and workarounds for PIR. Contact them at fortheppl.org to begin your journey in the PIR movement.

Additional resources on Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing will be posted to For The People's website soon. To learn more go to fortheppl.org.







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