

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATORS LORIGO, RATH, & MILLS**

**Re: Opposition to use of Executive Order to Grant Parolees Voting Rights**

**WHEREAS**, currently, state laws bar convicted felons from voting unless they are on probation or have completed the parole process; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Cuomo has proposed an Executive Order that would reestablish voting rights for felony parolees prior to completion of the terms of their parole; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's proposal is his knee jerk reaction to the New York State Legislature's decision to prohibit felony parolees from voting, instead opting to respect the legal process; and

**WHEREAS**, the action by Governor Cuomo is tantamount to granting pardons to all felony parolees in New York State regardless of the crime they were convicted of and their status of parolee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Executive Order affords his office the discretion to choose which parolees are granted conditional pardons and which are not, leading to an arbitrary selection process for whose right to vote is restored and when; and

**WHEREAS**, parole is merely the early release of a convicted criminal in anticipation of continued good behavior, it is not the completion of the entire sentence; and

**WHEREAS**, the parolee's original sentence can be reinstated in the event he or she lapses on their promise and breaks the law or other terms of their parole; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Cuomo's earlier proposal to the Senate giving parolees the right to vote was rejected by representatives of the people of the State of New York and that decision should not be circumvented, especially through the use of Executive Order.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that this honorable body hereby opposes the circumvention of the New York State Legislature by Governor Cuomo and supports the entire process of rehabilitation offered through parole and early release; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Cuomo, the Western New York delegations to the New York State Senate and Assembly, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for Resolution.