

HB 3665

THE JOE COLEMAN MEDICAL RELEASE ACT

Sponsored by Representative Will Guzzardi

IN 2019, 81-YEAR-OLD JOE COLEMAN, A DECORATED VETERAN AND FATHER OF 6, DIED ALONE IN PRISON WHILE AWAITING A DECISION ON EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY. HE WAS SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE FOR STEALING \$640 FROM A GAS STATION. MR. COLEMAN DESERVED TO DIE IN DIGNITY, AND HIS FAMILY DESERVED TO SEE HIM IN HIS LAST DAYS. WE NEED A BETTER SYSTEM.

IN 2019

1,200 people in IDOC were over the age of 65.

Almost 200 were veterans.

Over 300 people in prison were permanently housed in infirmary and hospital settings.

17,000 costly medical transports were necessary because prison infirmaries could not meet patients' needs.

THE SOLUTION—Medical release through HB 3665, a simple, expedited process for ill and incapacitated people to be released to Medicaid-approved outside care facilities able to meet their needs.

- » Applies to people determined by medical professionals to be **terminally ill** or **medically incapacitated** (requiring around-the-clock care to survive).
- » Moves time-sensitive medical release cases quickly through their own, efficient pipeline, so that they do not get caught in the backlog of requests for executive clemency.
- » Saves the State of Illinois **millions of dollars** by sharing the cost of treatment with Medicaid, while saving the unnecessary costs of medical transport from rural prisons to specialists, guarding costs, and infirmary costs within IDOC.

"Men and Women with various types of dementia...advanced cancers and increasing fragility... are housed in many IDOC facilities. The infirmaries are becoming filled with patient-inmates who are confused, incontinent, and require assistance with the basic activities of daily living, including dressing, feeding, bathing, and toileting...The health care and correctional resources...required to meet the needs of this aging population is staggering."

Report of the Federal Monitor of IDOC Healthcare, December 2019

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