

"ROBERT RICKS TESTIMONY

Good afternoon Senator Krueger, Assembly member pretlow, and to all of the distinguished Senators and Assembly members Present.

I am Robert Lee Ricks. I am grieving and I am angry that my son, Robert Lee Brooks, was murdered in December 2024 at the Marcy correctional facility by New York Department of Corrections staff. I am appalled by the lack of accountability for the corrections officers involved, and at the absolute failure of our state government to address the decades-old problem of violence against prisoners in New York's correctional facilities. I am not going to waste time providing you with data, facts and figures about the number of reported assaults and the millions paid to settle cases brought by prisoners. I am advised by former Attorney General Schneiderman that this information is available to you.

The emotional toll that this situation has taken on me, my family and my community has been devastating. No financial compensation can replace the loss of my son. But you have the power to demand accountability and enact the major reforms needed to end this epidemic of systemic taxpayer-funded violence.

I truly believe that My son died so that others may live. It is up to you to see that my son did not die in vain. We do not need to waste time with commissions or studies, Watch the video cam footage. And then take sweeping action to reform this broken and corrupt system once and for all.

Today I am here in support of four pieces of legislation. I support the 3 bills in Senator Salazar's "Prison Safety is Public Safety" package. I also support Senate bill 844, which would toll the statute of limitations for prisoners, giving them 3 years after release to file lawsuits against abusive prison staff.

Finally, I support the creation of the office of an independent special prosecutor to prosecute crimes committed by corrections staff against prisoners. It is crystal clear that the current system of accountability is broken. The Attorney General defends DOCS and DOCS employees so she has a conflict of interest, and I do not trust the District Attorneys who represent

the counties where prisons are located, and corrections staff are their constituents, to do justice in these challenging cases.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I urge you to take meaningful action in this year's legislative session."