Parole is broken

For people who have worked hard to earn their release from prison, parole officers should do everything possible to support their reentry, rather than sending them back. But too many are returned to prison for noncriminal “technical” violations, like missing a substance abuse meeting.

In New Mexico, technical violations are driving returns to prison from parole

Reasons for returns to incarceration from parole, 2016

- New offense: 12%
- Other or unknown: 17%
- Technical violation of parole: 71%

The number of people serving long sentences has grown dramatically

Percent change in the number of people who had already served 10 years or more from 2005 to 2015, by state