It is in all of our best interest to ensure that those who have been caught up in the criminal justice system are able to become successful members of their communities and stay out of prison. It’s therefore important that parole and probation practices are fair and consistent, and that courts use these practices as tools to allow accused persons to safely remain in their communities.

Instead, parole and probation are becoming tools for funneling people back into full custody. Revocation of parole for minor technical violations is the leading cause of people returning to prison. Individuals are routinely sent back for infractions such as missing a meeting or failing to get a job.

State and local governments should eliminate incarceration for parole and probation violations and instead use sanctions that are reflective of the violation, such as community service for missed meetings.

Tell your local policymakers that you support parole and probation reform that replaces prison with sensible alternatives like community service.