

D'Alessandro

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after hearing last month that one of Paula Bohovesky's killers had been granted parole. D'Alessandro first raised the idea in an interview with *The Journal News*/lohud.com in which she spoke of her empathy and concern for Paula's mother, Lois Bohovesky.

State Sen. David Carlucci, D-New City, contacted D'Alessandro after a reporter reached out to him for comment on her idea. On July 17, he introduced Paula's Law, which would extend Joan's Law just as D'Alessandro envisioned. In New Jersey, Joan's Law was updated in 2017 to address victims under 18. There is a federal version of Joan's Law as well, which applies to crimes against children under 14.

Repeated parole hearings — in New York, a prisoner can be up for parole every two years — traumatizes families, D'Alessandro said.

"She really doesn't get a break," D'Alessandro said of Lois Bohovesky. "It's not human ... the testifying is horrible. Just horrible."

Lois Bohovesky was not at Tuesday's press conference, but Carlucci said she is aware of the legislation.

Carlucci stood at a podium set up along Gate Hill Road near Harriman State Park with a full Rockland legislative contingent: Sen. James Skoufis, D-Woodbury, Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski, D-New City, and Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee, D-Suffern. Skoufis has



Joan Angela D'Alessandro



A poster of Joan D'Alessandro was displayed during Tuesday's press event.

Skoufis reminded the small gathering that one of Paula Bohovesky's killers, Richard LaBarbera, was released from prison July 8 and less than three weeks later was back in jail for violating parole in the Buffalo area.

According to the Buffalo News, LaBarbera parole officers allegedly found him drunk during a check, a violation of his parole. LaBarbera had been drinking in a bar with co-killer Robert McCain the night they killed Paula. McCain's parole bid was rejected last month.

"Joan and Paula, they had a future, they deserved a future," Zebrowski said. "Parole dishonors the memory of these two young individuals."

The laws wouldn't apply to either Joan D'Alessandro's or Paula Bohovesky's killers, since their crimes predate the legislative changes. "But it can help others," Rosemarie D'Alessandro said.

After the short speeches, Rosemarie D'Alessandro, accompanied by two of her sons, placed a bouquet of blue flowers, tied with a blue ribbon, near the sign that stands in memory of Joan. In the grove of trees below, green ribbons had been tied around several trunks. Blue was Paula's favorite color; green was Joan's.

Affixed under the sign in Joan's memory is a small plaque with a butterfly. Rosemarie D'Alessandro noted that every time she visits the site where her daughter's body was found on Easter Sunday, she sees a white butterfly.

On Tuesday, she saw two.

Steve Lieberman contributed.



Ernest VanDenHeuvel, a member of joansjoy.org, visits the site where Joan D'Alessandro's body was found in 1973. PHOTOS BY PETER CARR/THE JOURNAL NEWS



Rosemarie D'Alessandro attends a press conference on Tuesday in Harriman State Park.