

- Testimony -
Judiciary Committee - 13 MAR 2006

Good afternoon Senator McDonald & Representative Lawlor and all distinguished committee members.

My name is Gene Tewksbury I'm VP of Connecticut Correction Employees, Local 1565 and I have 20 years of state service as a Correction Officer.

I am here today to speak in favor of Bill 5784 - An Act Concerning The Board of Pardons & Parole.

I would like to draw your attention to page two of Commissioner Lantz' 16 FEB 2006 testimony.

First the commissioner states; *" By placing appropriate offenders in the community, under strict supervision, as the end of their sentence approaches, public safety is enhanced."*

In an earlier example I used the case of James Roseboro. *"Roseboro was free on parole for a week when he was charged with first-degree aggravated sexual assault, first-degree kidnapping, first-degree unlawful restraint, second-degree threatening, carrying a dangerous weapon and failure to comply with fingerprinting in connection with the alleged rape of the 16-year-old."*

Also on page two the Commissioner states; *"For the first time in more than 15-years the Department has sustained a decline in its incarcerated population for three consecutive years, in large part because of the utilization of the Re-Entry Model."* That is just about the same time that Parole was separated from the Department of Corrections the last time.

Now I used the Roseboro case not because it was convenient, but because if a felon with a violent history going back to the 80's, that is how long I have know this Inmate, is released by the commissioner's Re-Entry Model then you can be sure that there are many other violent felons being released - just to keep the count down and give the appearance that the commissioner is doing a good job.

The Roseboro case exemplifies why this commissioner or probably any commissioner of corrections would be able to resist using parole as an overcrowding solution.

I also would state my support for Bill 5651 - An Act Adopting the Recommendations of the Report of the Commission on Prison & Jail Overcrowding.

I would recommend that you amend line 43 to include "Board of Pardons and Paroles."

Thank You & are there any questions

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Gene Tewksbury