

**Good afternoon Chairman Prague, Chairman Ryan and the rest of this distinguished committee. My name is Ceil Soucy. I am here speaking to you again on House Bill #6958.**

**I am a secretary working for the Department of Correction in a Correctional Facility and have 17 years of service. I am assigned to a duty station that is located through the sally port (which are the locked doors). I am here speaking to you so that you can get a better understanding of what our jobs entail working in a correctional facility. You're probably thinking clerical workers, which means sitting behind a desk all day typing and filing. Our job titles clerk typist, secretary, administrative assistant, etc. along with our job description does not fully describe what are duties entail and the amount of inmate contact we have on a daily basis. No matter where you are assigned in the facility: custody, school, classification, medical or administration you have inmate contact. Our duties require us to go to different areas of the facility. There are certain rules that you never forget working in Corrections, one being knowing where your keys are at all times and two, observe the behavior of inmate for anything out of the ordinary and never get complacent. We always have to remember we are working in a correctional facility that house criminals. This is meant for all staff not just hazardous duty staff.**

**Our jobs subject us to possible assaults, hostage situations or even an inmate retaliation on our families and ourselves. Public safety comes first which means if an inmate were to hold one of us hostage, our life could be taken before they would let an inmate escape. Clerical have stayed late during facility emergencies assigned to emergency communication and we also complete the same mandatory training as hazardous duty staff. Working in this high-risk environment, we are mandated to receive annual TB testing and hepatitis B vaccine series. Just recently we had a staff person come down with meningitis.**

**There are approximately 100 correctional clerical who work in hazardous conditions, which represents a very small portion of corrections. This would not put a financial burden on the department or the State of CT.**

**Correctional clerical who the majority are women, are the only correctional employees who work in correctional facilities that do not receive hazardous duty. We are not asking for special treatment, we just want to be treated fairly.**

**We are looking for your support and understanding. Thank you.**

**Ceil Soucy  
158 May Street  
Naugatuck, CT 06770  
203-720-2456**