



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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Good Morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here to express my support for several bills on today's agenda: SB 608, AN ACT CONCERNING THE VIDEOTAPING OF CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS; HB 5832, AN ACT CONCERNING EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION; SB 694, AN ACT CONCERNING ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS; and SB 704, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELEASE, SALE AND ACCURACY OF CONVICTION INFORMATION

First, I want to express my support for SB 608, AN ACT CONCERNING THE VIDEOTAPING OF INTERROGATIONS. I have long been an advocate for the taping of custodial confessions and I believe that this procedure protects both

would increase confidence in the investigative techniques used by our criminal justice system.

SB 694, AN ACT CONCERNING ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS, would resolve an inequity in our justice system. In general, whenever a charge in a criminal case is nolle, after 13 months the police and court records as well as the records of the state's attorney are erased. However, if the nolle charge is contained in an information with other charges that are not nolle, the record is not erased; this diminishes the value of the nolle. SB 694 would require that a charge deemed nolle be erased after 13 months regardless of the disposition of other charges on the same information. The current situation is unfair to defendants; there is not a logical distinction between a nolle charge which is on an information alone and one that is on an information with other charges. The current system may create extra work for the court system as in order to protect their clients, defense attorneys may request that the nolle charges be placed on a separate information from those charges with a different disposition. I believe that SB 694 would create a sensible change that is fair to defendants and would enhance the efficiency of our judicial system.

SB 704, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELEASE, SALE AND ACCURACY OF CONVICTION INFORMATION would fix a technical problem in PA 07-243, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELEASE, SALE AND ACCURACY OF CONVICTION INFORMATION, THE ISSUANCE OF A REARREST

pardon who is granted a provisional pardon should be supplied with the reasons for this decision so that the petitioner might make an educated and informed choice as to whether to apply for an absolute pardon at a later time. I would urge that you include language to accomplish this in one of the bills that is passed by the Judiciary Committee this session.

Thank you for raising these extraordinarily important bills; I look forward to working with you on these issues in the coming weeks.