

Jonathan DeBarros

Judiciary Committee

Raised SB 641: An Act Concerning Repeat Violent Offenders (oppose)

Raised HB 5876 An Act Concerning Mandatory Life Sentences for Repeat Violent Offenders (oppose)

Raised HB 5915 An Act Concerning Persistent Dangerous Felony Offenders (oppose)

HB 5035 An Act Concerning Repeat Violent Offenders, Burglary and Pardons and Parole (oppose)

My name is Jonathan DeBarros I am 29 years old of age and I oppose Raised SB 641: An Act Concerning Repeat Violent Offenders, Raised HB 5876 An Act Concerning Mandatory Life Sentences for Repeat Violent Offenders, Raised HB 5915 An Act Concerning Persistent Dangerous Felony Offenders, HB 5035 An Act Concerning Repeat Violent Offenders, Burglary and Pardons and Parole.

I have been incarcerated since October 13, 1996. Since my incarceration I have accomplished a lot such as obtaining my GED, Building Maintenance and Micro Computer Vocational Training. I am also currently enrolled in the Business and Accounting Education programs here at ECI. I have also taken other programs dealing with alternative to violence and drug and alcohol prevention not to mention that I have just enrolled in a college program on public speaking.

If you would goggle my name you would see that I am incarcerated fro defending my life and I received a 60-year sentence at the age of 19 because the judge and prosecutor residing over my trial knowingly withheld crucial evidence that could have exonerated me of the charges I was being tried for. And even though the court of appeals overturned my conviction July 3, 2000 and ruled that the gun states witness Edward Griffin took off the victim's body should have been allowed into evidence to help support my self-defense claim. I am still incarcerated because between 1998 when I first was sentenced to life in prison and 2000 when my case was over turned or even up to 2003 when my case went back to trail again for the second time, the Waterbury Police Department claims they received a court order to destroy the gun. I was never able to have a finger print analysis done on the gun in the first trail, because the gun was not allowed into evidence. And after the higher court ruled that it must be allowed into my second trial the gun turns up missing or destroyed.

I never had the chance to prove that the gun came out of the hand of the victim and after 7 long days of deliberations I received a hung jury. I was supposed to go back to trial a third time but after spending over 48,000.00 in legal fees my family and I could not afford to pay my attorney another 15,000.00. So I was forced to take a plea bargain under the Alfred doctrine on the charge of manslaughter. I ask you is that justice?

This situation could have been my second or third strike, according to your proposals. I would have received life in prison because of corrupt prosecutors and police officers, along with an incompetent judge had my situation taken place under a 3-strike law. I plead guilty because I ran out of resources to continue with another trial and I am just one of thousands of people who are forced to do the same thing in courtrooms across this country everyday. I think that your 3-strike law is wrong and will only be another way to torture and oppress the poor and most of all minorities.

Sincerely,

Jonathan DeBarros # 235889