

Vannita Washington

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 Vannita Washington a resident of Connecticut 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.

A three (3)-strikes law would affect me though I have a clean record. I come from neighborhoods where my family and peers have many run ins with the law and have several felony convictions. If there was a 3-strikes law, my only brother with whom is very dear to me, more like a child since we lost our parents young, would make any mistake that according to the proposed laws would be sent away for life and taken away from his children and me.

My brother has made some mistakes and I do not go around blaming society and complaining. I give my brother as much support as I can; he has had a difficult time as a child accepting the loss of our mom and then a year later our father. He had been moved around from family member to family member, suffers from depression as well as other issue due to the loss of our parents. No one made enough effort in New Haven nor Hartford public schools to assure he received the help he needed.

No one in the Department of Corrections properly addressed his severe anger issues. I have worked at my same job for many years, have built a life for myself here in Connecticut and it is sad to say that if these bills are passed we as a family is at risk.

Once my brother is released from incarceration I will be moving my family as far away from Connecticut as possible leaving behind many other family members and friends to assure my brothers safety from this attack that the African American Community is under. I ask of you to please reconsider such a law and to consider families and children and how such a law would gravely affect them.

Respectfully,

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Mrs. Vannita Washington

CT Resident, CT Tax Payer, and CT Registered Voter