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Good morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee.

I'd like to thank Governor Rell for her nomination, and thank all of you for your time here today.

For the past eight months, I've had the fortunate opportunity to sit on the Connecticut Parole Board. During this time, I've worked alongside an amazing group of individuals, each of whom bring unique experiences and diversity to the board. I've made release decisions for hundreds of Connecticut inmates, with the safety of our communities at the forefront of my decision-making process. I am challenged with the goal of promoting the safe and successful reintegration of offenders to their communities. My decisions are based on careful consideration of an inmate's past and present actions.

My past experiences and education have prepared me for this great responsibility. I hold a Bachelor's degree in sociology and a Master's degree in criminal justice. My previous careers were with the Alternative Incarceration Center in Waterbury, and the Department of Children and Families in Torrington.

In my role at AIC, I was responsible for the direct supervision of approximately 40 residents in the facility. These individuals were on pre-trial, probationary or parole status, and received services and work release opportunities while residing there. The safety and security of the facility and surrounding community were of utmost importance in this position.

At DCF, my primary focus was the protection of Connecticut's children. While in a treatment unit there, I was responsible for providing families with the necessary services and programs to maintain their family unit. When removal of a child was necessary, it was my responsibility to provide the tools for the successful reunification of the family when possible. As an investigative social worker, I was the first to respond to allegations of child abuse and neglect. In this position, I determined whether or not a child was at risk of harm, and whether further services were necessary for a family. As a social work supervisor, I supervised five social workers in a treatment/training unit. Many of the clients at DCF were involved with the criminal justice system, just as many of the inmates that I see today are involved with DCF.

I resigned from DCF to begin raising a family at home, all the while knowing that I would return to a position that involved public safety.

I have enjoyed my time with the Board thus far, and I look forward to serving the state in this capacity for as long as possible.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time. Thank you.