

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED HOUSE BILL NO. 5284  
AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE CONNECTICUT PARDON TEAM

Testimony of Richard Caron Sr.  
Executive Director of The Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc.

Connecticut General Assembly  
Appropriations Committee  
Public Hearing  
February 23, 2009

Thank you, members of the committee, for allowing me to speak to you today on this important bill. My Name is Richard Caron Executive Director of The Connecticut Pardon Team. I'm speaking in favor of the proposed house bill #5284 an act appropriating funds for the Connecticut Pardon Team. Our Non-Profit program, The Connecticut Pardon Team, is dedicated to helping individuals move forward with their lives. The process for applying for a Pardon can be emotionally demanding for most of the applicants. Our program is designed to take out the anxiety of the process for applying for the Expungement/Provisional Pardon Petition.

The state and many municipalities fund numerous reentry programs like housing, homeless shelters, education, job training, and facility programs, which are all vital to the individual reestablishing back into the community and I am strongly in favor of helping with the success of these programs. However, the one process that seems to be overlooked is the need for a successfully completed application for the Expungement Pardon. With the financial burden of these times we need to work together to help relieve the state of the financial cost of these programs. One way to accomplish this is for individuals to complete the ultimate reentry program a successful Expungement Pardon Petition.

The applicants that seek are assistance have successfully completed many of the current reentry programs and still without the ultimate results of a pardon, they cannot move forward. These individuals need to have the hope of finding a

better way of life. They need to have the mistakes that they have made in the past to be put behind them. These mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters, community workers, teachers, lawyers, doctors, nurses are individuals who have criminal records but wish to move on and become the upstanding citizens within their communities. The successful Expungement/Provisional Pardon not only meets the needs of these people with legal history but it also empowers their families to remove the oppression that has been suffered throughout the stigma of past conviction.

With the essential funding that this bill could provide The Connecticut Pardon Team would be able to continue to enhance the ability to help individuals throughout the state, to receive the ultimate goal of becoming a self sustaining citizen without the burden of needing the financial assistance from the State of Connecticut. In 2008 we have worked with over 1,300 individuals, through informationals, phone calls, e-mails, our internet website, and the numerous networking with other agencies. We have worked with every county in Connecticut and have even helped people that no longer live in this state. The pardon and parole board's estimated statistics show that this number will only increase in the upcoming years as so many people reenter back into the community. This proves that our program The Connecticut Pardon Team needs to continue to reach out to the State of Connecticut for continuous funding to keep the combined goals of creating a productive, healthy, happy and self-sustaining citizen.

**Oct 2007 through January 01, 2009  
Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc.  
has served**

\* indicates no information forum has be done in the county

Fair Field County -----227 Participants

Hartford County-----422 Participants

New Haven County-----312 Participants

New London County-----209 Participants

Windham County-----69 Participants

Middlesex County-----59 Participants

\*Litchfield County-----58 Participants

\*Tolland County-----27 participants

**Oct 2007 through January 01, 2009 Connecticut  
Pardon Team, Inc.  
has served Out of State**

**All participants have records in Connecticut**

**California-----2 Participants**  
**Florida -----7 Participants**  
**Kansas----- 1 Participant**  
**North Carolina-----4 Participants**  
**Illinois-----1 Participant**  
**Washington----- 1 Participants**  
**Georgia-----4 Participants**  
**Maine-----1 Participant**  
**New York-----4 Participants**  
**Missouri-----1 Participant**  
**Massachusetts-----1 Participant**  
**New Hampshire-----1 Participant**  
**Rhode Island-----5 Participants**  
**Nebraska-----1 Participant**  
**Virginia-----1 Participant**  
**South Carolina-----4 Participants**