

Support HB 5207
February 25, 2010

Councilwoman rJo Winch
Majority Leader/President Pro Tem
City of Hartford

I support HB 5207 because it is only fair that our State provides the opportunity for those who have made a mistake to turn their lives around after serving their time.

It is unfair to have people serve a length of time in our justice system and then serve a life sentence in society because no matter how qualified they are for a position to only be turned down for prior incarceration.

If we are going to continue the practice of not educating our children and graduating them without the skills to get employment or go to college, they we should be honest with them and say,

1. We are not going to ensure you get an education but we will mandate your parents send you to our schools for 180 days a year
2. We will ensure we can keep our prisons in business by ensuring they are filled to capacity
3. We will continue our practice of funding organizations that do not have a history of positive outcomes
4. And, most importantly we will campaign on your issues and then do nothing about them once we are elected.

We, the community are asking that you pass HB5207 or tell us the truth, that you do not want our State to be a better place for us to live, work, and play. Stop thinking that you are fooling us, we see through you plans and we are saying today that we will no longer sit idle while our criminal justice system continues to support life sentences for those who have already paid their dues to society.

Please pass this bill so many who have made a mistake and paid their dues can get on with their lives.

Thank You