

To the Honorable lawmakers of the State of Connecticut

I am writing you today to support **House Bill 5523 Re-Entry-Tax Credit for hiring people with felonies, Census for residence not prison address, Ban the Box**

As a black male 54 years of age born in New Haven, Connecticut. Having completed high school and a Vietnam Era Veteran, I have worked for the most renowned companies in the State of Connecticut as a skilled machinist for over 30 years. To name a few:

- **Sikorsky Aircraft**
- **Pratt & Whitney Aircraft**
- **Sergeant's**
- **US Repeating Arms formally known as Winchesters**
- **Amphenol ITD Spectra Strip**

For the first time in my life I began a sentence back in July of 2001 and was released to the Cheney halfway house here in Hartford, Connecticut March of 2004 it is now March 2010. Since my release while in the halfway house I started my employment with Capewell components LLC serving 3 years from 2004-2007 with perfect attendance. When I got laid off from Capewell I began facing being turned down for jobs even when I was honest about my class "D" felony when I was asked to present my resume online never mind filling out an application. With my skills and resume they are interested until I am honest about the felony. Finally I landed a job with CBS Manufacturing in East Granby, Connecticut and served them from 2007-2008 as a perfect attendance employee. Then a layoff again and faced the same thing over again. Finally I landed employment with Magnatech Orbital Welding Systems in East Granby, Connecticut from January 2009-present. With my knowledge, background, and experience there is so much more that I could do for myself like getting a higher paying job and furthering my education, as I would like to. But your laws will not allow me to do better for myself because of your discrimination practices in this State of Connecticut. My company currently has us on furlough 1week on 1week off and the economy is not getting any better. I am paying arrearages for child support and 10 years of penalty fees and fines back to the State Department of Labor not getting any unemployment until the debt is paid and I am not the only one. When a sentence is done, it should be done!

While I support this bill it is most certainly not enough. We must also look at the Department of Social Services form W-1ER (Rev. 4/07) which also asks the question: Have you ever been convicted of a felony? You must change the law in favor of the people being able to support themselves. You cannot have it both ways feeding a criminal factory intentionally and discriminating. Telling the people that they must do probation and or parole, if they don't get a job they are going back they go back to jail.

Sincerely,
James D Butler III
Hartford, CT