



TUXIS RESIDENTIAL & COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INC.

Advocacy & Empowerment... One Person at a Time Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D., Executive Director

Testimony Submitted to the Committee on Judiciary

Senate Bill # 954, An Act Concerning the Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations.

In Favor -written only testimony

Testimony scheduled for March 9, 2011

My name is Terrence Macy, Ph.D. I am the Executive Director of SARAH Tuxis Residential and Community Resources, Inc. We are a community based agency that has been supporting persons with intellectual disabilities for 20 years. I am writing in support of this legislation proposed by the Public Defenders.

I have been in support of similar legislation that has been proposed many times in the past by the Arc Connecticut. I supported those efforts because I believe persons with intellectual disabilities have been forced to make confessions to major felonies they did not commit. This year, I am writing to support SB 954 because I believe the need for it remains extremely urgent and it provides balanced safeguards for both the law enforcement community and those persons with intellectual disabilities.

My colleague, a nationally recognized author, Robert Perske, has already offered you a painfully aware testimony in favor of this bill. He has been a strident proponent of this kind of legislation for years. His is not an academic view of the subject but one based on his first hand experience with cases where persons with intellectual disabilities have been wrongly accused and made false confessions. Some have paid with their lives. I would ask that you add my voice to his as we share a belief in the rights of persons with disabilities to be treated fairly in the process of custodial interrogations.

Thank you for considering this testimony in favor of SB #954 the purpose of which is "To improve the reliability of confessions by providing that statements made by the person during custodial interrogation at a place of detention are presumed inadmissible unless the custodial interrogation is electronically recorded"

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