

State of Connecticut  
Judiciary Committee  
Re: HB 5488  
March 15, 2012

Dear Committee Members.

We unfortunately are unable to attend the hearing scheduled for Monday March 19<sup>th</sup> because we are visiting our son in California. However we do want our voice to be heard in this matter. We did meet with Senator Roraback this past Monday who is supporting us in our efforts to get the Risk Reduction Earned Credit (RREC) program repealed.

Our daughter was murdered by her husband. He put his hands around her neck and choked her to death. He tried to make us believe that he dropped her off to go jogging somewhere and she didn't come home. Three days later he finally confessed to his evil deed. Our beautiful daughter was found in a wooded area where he dumped her. Her body was so badly deteriorated from nature's creatures that they wouldn't even allow us to see her to identify her or to say goodbye to her and kiss her one last time.

We stood by the court system month after month, continuation after continuation for over 2 years. We finally agreed with the prosecution team to a plea agreement to avoid the possibility of having our four year old grandson having to testify as to what he saw. The plea was for manslaughter. The agreement was for 27-1/2 years with NO chance for parole. There was no "maybe".

At the sentencing Judge Patrick Carroll had this killer stand up before him and told him that he will spend 27-1/2 years in prison with NO chance for parole. He didn't say "maybe".

And now we are receiving notices in the mail that this killer is receiving credits to get out prison sooner than what we were promised. They call it the "Risk Reduction Earned Credit" program. It makes me wonder who in our legislature stays awake at night dreaming up ways to help these violent criminals. And then it really scares me to think that a majority has to agree for it to become law.

You all need to understand how we feel so please listen to us. There is no "maybe" we are going to get our daughter back no matter how much we cry. There is no "maybe" our Son is going to get his big Sister back to grow old with after we are gone. There is no "maybe" our Grandsons are going to get back the Mother that loved and cherished them so. Our sentence is a life sentence.

Another thing I find troubling about this program is that as stated by Michael Lawlor, the governor's undersecretary for criminal justice, those (referring to violent criminals) are exactly the type of people who should be in programs designed to keep them from hurting people again. This leads me to ask this question. If this program were truly "designed" to reduce the risk of recitative

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behavior and it was just passed in May of 2011 then how could it possibly have been passed retroactively to 2006 when there was no such "designed" program in place. I believe that the truth is that these offenders are being given "credits" for doing what they are supposed to be doing which is to behave.

Lee and I would like to express our support for HB-5488 as it would be a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Patrick and Lee DeGrosse

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