

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
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Anthony J deMattei
41A Gillotti Rd
New Fairfield, Ct
Before the Judiciary Committee
March 19, 2012

Testimony in Support of House Bill 5488

"An Act Concerning Risk Reduction Credits for Certain Criminal Offenses that Result in the Death of Another Person"

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 5488. I am parent of a victim of a drunk driving fatality.

On October 4, 2010 my wife and I received a call from Danbury Hospital regarding our daughter Danae had been in an automobile crash and we should prepare ourselves for her condition. Upon arriving at the hospital we were told that Danae had been involved in an automobile crash and the driver had a blood alcohol level of .236. and that a neurosurgeon was on his way. After reviewing the x-rays and explained she had suffered extreme head trauma and her brain had begun to swell. He that she had a 1 percent chance of pulling through but was willing to performed a craniotomy because she was so young just 32. We remained at her bedside until her passing on Oct 9, 2010.

Danae's death has traumatized our family my wife and I have a pain inside which will never go away and sense of emptiness that will be with us forever. Our son stated that he not only lost a sister but his best friend.

We went to court sixteen times and to relive the daughter's death before the driver was sentenced to 10 years suspended after 3 1/2 .

As the " the Victim" I respectfully request that an inmate imprisoned in the Connecticut Correctional System who is convicted of Manslaughter in the Second Degree with a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated NOT be eligible to earn risk reduction credits.

Although no sentence will bring our daughter back, the driver's lack of responsibility in killing our daughter due to disregard for life and the law and not using good judgment and getting behind the wheel is unacceptable.

During the first week of October we received a letter from the Department of Corrections (see attached) that inmates could receive credit and be release early. After reading the letter I felt as if the system had failed us..

MADD respectfully requests the support of the Judiciary Committee to consider Manslaughter in the Second Degree convicted offenders/inmates be ineligible to earn risk reduction credits while imprisoned.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Office of the Commissioner

24 Wolcott Hill Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

September 23, 2011

Anthony Demattei
41 A Gillotti Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812-

On July 1, 2011 the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 11-51, which provided in part, the ability for eligible offenders, whose offense date was on or after 10.1.94, to earn credit for participation in programming and work assignments that are consistent with their Offender Accountability Plan, along with good conduct and obedience to departmental rules. More specifically, if an offender is eligible and in compliance with the above, he or she may earn five (5) days of risk reduction earned credit (RREC) each month that they are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Correction.

Additionally, the public act also provides for the application of this earned credit to be applied retroactively dating back to 4.1.06. Offenders who were incarcerated anytime during that retroactive period, and are still under jurisdiction of the Department of Correction, may be eligible for a lump sum application of credit. The application of this credit will be applied to both the eligibility date for discretionary release as well as to the offender's discharge date. It should be noted that this credit has not yet been applied to the offender population, however we will begin to apply this credit October 1, 2011. The application of credit will be applied incrementally in the interest of public safety and to ensure appropriate discharge planning for offenders prior to release.

Once the offender's sentence has been adjusted and is in relative proximity to discharge, we will again reach out to you informing you of that discharge date.

I know that for some, news of this public act is very unsettling. As an agency we are committed to the victims of crime and we are here to assist you in comprehending the information noted above and help you clearly understand the implications of the law as it relates to you. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call our Victim Services Unit directly at 888.869.7057

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leo C. Amone".

Leo C. Amone
Commissioner

cc VSU file