

Testimony 3/11/13  
Connecticut General Assembly Public Portion  
Bill #6581

Thank you for maintaining my liberty to speak openly in public about my beliefs and personal opinions. I support the work of this committee relative to sentencing reform for juveniles.

My son went to a guidance counselor at age 15 to ask for guidance about his relationship with another child. He was told that he could "tell her anything" so he did. This led to his arrest, he was charged as an adult, drugged and sentenced to 30 years.

This country has burnt women at the stake for witchcraft, lynched black men for speaking to white women, jailed homosexuals for perversion. Now witchcraft is a recognized religion, a black man is the president, and gays can marry.

We have come a long way but we're not there yet. Planned Parenthood will give birth control to a child and even arrange abortions without parental consent while refusing to speak of statutory rape. When a 14 year old boy has sex with a 17 year old girl, he is considered lucky; but when a 17 year old boy has sex with a 14 year old girl, he gets a prison sentence and a lifetime conviction as a sex offender.

A 15 year old sex offender in the CT DOC cannot be educated the same as other inmates. They are denied student loans and banished from some college campuses.

I once spoke to a deputy warden about treating some of our prisons like community colleges because it reduces recidivism significantly. His answer to me was, "What? Are you doing trying to put me out of business?" The education that is denied changes self-image. It doesn't make criminals smart. Do you know how many people don't know what recidivism is? They sure do know what fewer victims means.

CT statistics, as well federal statistics, show the lowest recidivism rate of sex offenders at 6% and does not show the rate amongst juvenile offenders. How about educated juvenile offenders? If you don't have the number, I'll assign one...0%. At the same time, the television that is allowed into the DOC misstates on its daytime talk shows that it's 94 %. Why don't we change the television that our youth in prison are watching to Science, History, National Geographic?

It's time to change again. We need to change how we treat juvenile offenders so we can reduce victims.

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