

Marinelli, George

From: Anne Brislin <abrislin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 12:33 AM
To: Marinelli, George
Cc: Sen. Kissel, John A.
Subject: Testimony regarding Senate Bill 123

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee members:

I want you to know that I am in favor of the Senate Bill #123, An Act to Repeal the Risk Reduction Credit Program, as are all of the members /registered voters in my family.

I want you to understand what it has been like for me, as an active woman who has been a runner/ jogger and member of my community in Enfield, to even consider pursuing a walk or run in my neighborhood. I live approximately two miles from the prison complex. When i first moved here in 1984, I frequently ran solo in the early morning hours before my husband left for work while my children slept in their beds. Before I would depart while stretching, I had to listen to at least two radio newscasts to check that no prisoners had escaped overnight, because there had been a frequent number of escapes in which both violent and non-violent offenders were at large in my area! Obviously my safety was not paramount to the state at that time.

Now you want to arrange for planned "early escapes" of both violent and non-violent offenders for attending classes while in prison serving a term to which they have been sentenced. I think that every effort should be made to reform and re-train these individuals. However, I also believe that they should serve their full sentences, without time off for attending classes to aid in their self-improvement. Often, when prisoners are paroled they remain in my community because they are assigned to parole officers at the Enfield Superior Court.

So now that we seem better able to keep the prisoners from rioting or escaping (my neighborhood was completely locked down during the 1991 prisoner riot), you want to let more of them out ahead of time? Why would you do that when there are anger management, personal skill, and GED classes inside the prison, which could help to improve them as much as possible for every day for which they are sentenced?

One of the greatest problems I have encountered as an educator is that we have parents who fail to parent their children because they want to be friends with their children. They host booze parties, make excuses for homework turned in late, and fail to set clear limits and boundaries. **When you let prisoners out early, you are just like these bad parents. Do not be parental wimps in my name please! As a parent who has raised two independent and law-abiding children who never got off easy if they disobeyed our clearly stated rules, you must own up to the fact that these people have been duly tried and sentenced and deserve to serve their time and take their punishment.**

You owe the people of Connecticut the assurance that they can be safe in their communities. You owe this to the family of the Manchester convenience store owner who was murdered by an early released inmate. You owe this to every Connecticut family. If you thought something as heinous as the Petit family tragedy will never happen again, then you are foolish and do not understand human nature or the callous unemotional nature of a convicted psychopath. There are criminals who are manipulative, callous and unemotional and will charm any parole board to get released so they can commit more crimes. How do you know you will not let someone like this out early?

You must repeal the Risk Reduction Credit program and vote for Senate Bill #123.

Sincerely,
Anne M. Brislin
Enfield, CT