

Testimony of Bette Barrett in support of SB 123

Let me start but saying I am a victim, my daughter was murdered seven years ago and even though there are known suspects they have yet to be arrested. My daughter left a loving family and three small children behind whose many milestones and accomplishments she is missing. Before I talk about the Risk Reduction Program which I feel is outrageous and only serves to save the state of Ct. money while not serving the people of Ct. I'd like to speak about another good time that most people have no idea about. Two of my daughters suspected murderers should have been incarcerated when she was murdered but instead were walking the streets. The main suspect in my daughters murder had been arrested 10 times before her death for so called "non violent crimes" drugs. theft, carrying a firearm, identity theft, fleeing from an officer and the list goes on. The first time he was arrested he was sentenced to two years suspended after 45 days, each subsequent crime went the same way culminating in being sentenced to seven years suspended after two. If you go to The CT Judicial site and look up convicted criminals you will find that a significant number of people sentenced in court have their sentence reduced before they leave the courtroom. in light of this fact I would say that criminals are getting good time before they even start their sentence. It's ludicrous that we have a good time law when most felons going into the system already go in with a reduced sentence.

I am outraged that this law was pushed through at the end of session without a public hearing in which constituents could voice their opinions, We seem to have hearings on many things and I would ask why the Risk Reduction Program and issue of public safety was not one of them. There have been two murders by early release felons which some might say isn't much, I think the families of these victims would beg to differ. Their lives are forever changed because The state of Ct. passed this law. Who else has to die, how much blood does the state of Ct need on their hands before they rescind this law.

Its funny but my entire working life I worked hard did what what expected and my bosses never gave me time off for good behavior, why should a criminal not have to serve his time for bad behavior. We need to spend more time fixing a judicial system that's broken and that doesn't include good time.

In closing I can only say I miss my daughter more each day and i will never have time off from that. Please pass Senate Bill 123.

Bette Barrett

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