



Commerce Security Services, LLC.

Post Office Box 609
Newtown, Connecticut 06470
(203) 797-8626 / E-Mail: CSSPublicSafety@Aol.Com
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March 23, 2013

Connecticut General Assembly
Committee on Judiciary Matters
Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
Attn: George Marinelli

Re: Senate Bill 123 An Act Repealing The Risk Reduction Credit Program.

Dear State Senators:

It's been requested that I provide my perspective of the above raised issue by state senators. Please forgive my delayed response to the above captioned matter, in reference to giving convicted serious violent offenders reduction time in their incarceration within the State of Connecticut. It's pretty much a " No Brainer " that this program should not under any condition be applied to "serious violent offenders " as they are incarcerated for a reason, being a threat and danger to the state community. Individuals who have been convicted of rape, manslaughter, kidnapping, or sexual molestation of a child, should by common sense be locked up for as long as possible. And even that seems to be insufficient for their crimes to say the least.

I am far from ignorant of the concept of rewarding an inmate for good behavior while a " guest " of our states correctional facility, I understand that the state must put something on the table to encourage good conduct. In the case of people convicted of rape, manslaughter, kidnapping, or sexual molestation of a child. I would propose alternatives as motivation and not reduced sentences, offer them additional T.V. Time, a first run movie, McDonalds, an ability to plant a garden, offer them a monthly single cold beer during the summer as a " reward ". Reducing their sentences defies the basic principles of Public Safety, Juris Prudence, and our states legal system. It sends a very poor message, commit a serious crime, be good on the inside, and you get to leave early!

I'd rather see a message of behave yourself, cause no problems or issues, and one night a month you get a steak dinner with all the trimmings and a cold beer as a reward, and then a first run movie, seems more reasonable and safer to the general public as a whole. A society can be best judges by how it treats its most weakest and vulnerable, justice should be tempered with a level of mercy and compassion, otherwise it's just revenge. There are and must be alternatives than reduced prison sentences, I would suggest the states DOC work on that and be a bit more creative. I fully support Senate Bill 123 An Act Repealing The Risk Reduction Credit Program.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Marchetti, Principal, CLSO.
State of Connecticut DES&PP Special Licensee.