

Testimony before the Judiciary Committee In SUPPORT of SB 123 AN ACT REPEALING THE RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

Presented By: Jennifer Peifer  
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I testify before you today in support of Senate Bill 123 AN ACT REPEALING THE RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

On September 8, 2009, my 31-year-old brother, Michael Carbone, was brutally murdered by Andrew Michaud in Newington. He was stabbed 24 times with an 8 inch chef's knife while he begged for his life in front of an eye witness. During the struggle he was stabbed repeatedly in the back and his spinal cord was severed. Michael was not armed, and in fact was invited to the scene by his murderer (with whom he was acquainted) to retrieve \$150 owed to him by Michaud. The fact that the crime took place in the murderer's "home" (Michaud was a vagrant drug addict living in someone's basement) resulted in a hung jury because of the tedium that is a self defense plea in the state of CT. The prosecution firmly believes that Michaud deliberately committed the murder in his home in order to set up a self-defense plea. The unfortunate reality that one person on a jury can downgrade a case from Felony Murder to Manslaughter via a mistrial is sickening enough. Please do not add more pain and suffering to my family by rewarding this murderer with risk reduction credits as well.

Andrew Michaud, after no less than 6 court appearances leading up to what would have been his second trial has now pled guilty to Manslaughter and will be sentenced on April 9, 2013. The maximum the judge can sentence him is 20 years – but he could get less depending on the judge. Even if he gets the full 20 years, he will likely serve no more than 16 - which isn't even a year for every stab wound he inflicted on my unarmed brother. I have been made aware by the prosecutor and the victim advocate that people convicted of manslaughter are eligible for Risk Reduction credits.

Despite the fact that Michaud has a history of violence and has threatened to stab numerous parties over the years – including a family of four minding their own business at a Dunkin Donuts - it could not be brought up at his trial. This man WILL kill again - it is merely a question of when. He is a very crafty criminal, and will easily complete any "program" in prison that will guarantee his early release.

My brother, Michael, had three sons aged 14, 5 and 2 at the time of his death. With parole and risk reduction credits, his murderer, Andrew Michaud, will likely be out of prison before my brother's youngest son graduates from high school. Cases like Andrew Michaud's permeate the prison system. Terrorizing victims and survivors with Risk Reduction for these violent criminals is unfair, immoral and should not be allowed to continue. I urge you to end the Risk Reduction Credit program for violent offenders. Thank you.