

We are here to support the passage of Senate Bill 123 that would eliminate the Early Release Program for violent criminals.

There are many reasons to repeal the Early Release Program. It was flawed in concept from the very beginning. It assumed that a high percentage of criminals could be rehabilitated. But it relied on the same remedial programs that have been in place for years. Even though those programs have been implemented for years Connecticut has had a history of high recidivism rates. A 2011 Study published by the Department of Corrections revealed that two thirds of prisoners released in 2004 and 2005 were arrested within 2 years of release. Why would anyone believe that remediation programs that have failed badly in the past begin to work?

Aside from the failure in conception, the Early Release Program was seriously flawed in its implementation. In fact, it would be fair to characterize the implementation of the Program as reckless. **Below are 7 reasons why the Early Release Program is a failure and must be repealed before more murder and mayhem is committed upon our families:**

1. The retroactive application of the Program for 5 years to more than 16,000 prisoners was impossible to apply with any careful review. Almost everyone earned retroactive credits. Frankie Resto's case illustrates the point. Under the old law he was denied parole for his bad behavior in prison. But upon passage of Early Release *Resto was given 128 days retroactive Credit for his behavior during that same time!*
2. Prisoners have been receiving credit for courses they did not attend (confirmed by the Victim Advocate)
3. The Early Release law forced the Department of Corrections to release Frankie Resto even though they knew he was a violent and dangerous convict because the application of the early release credits shortened his sentence so he had to be released "for time served". The new law has reduced the discretion of the Parole Board.
4. Because the Early Release Law shortened Resto's sentence so much he had to be released for time served Resto did not need a sponsor as would have been required under the old law
5. Because of the Early Release Law Resto was released on probation, not parole. This made it more difficult to apprehend him for probation violations. If he had been released on parole he could have been arrested more quickly for his violations (he was using drugs again). This delay cost Ibrahim Ghazal his life
6. The Program was rushed into effect without adequate systems and procedures. Even 1 year after inception, the Program's policies were still being adjusted
7. More than 1 year after inception the "Ohio Risk Assessment" tool had not been implemented

We must repeal the Early Release Program by passing SB 123.

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