

MATT ZURELL, BRISTOL CT, IN SUPPORT OF SB-123

Please pass this bill and repeal the Risk Reduction Earned Credit Program (RREC).

The RREC has been dubbed the "early release program" for CT inmates, and allows for reduced sentences of violent criminals... over and above pled-down charges in the original trial.

The only inmates NOT eligible for Risk Reduction Earned Credit (RREC) are those convicted of:

1. Capitol felony
2. Murder
- 3, Aggravated sexual assault
4. Home invasion

Guess what?

Murder charges can be pled down to manslaughter... aggravated sexual assault down to rape. Those convicted of these (and other) lesser crimes ARE eligible for early release.

To illustrate, consider the case of William Spengler of Webster, NY last December.

Back in 1980, William Spengler bludgeoned his 92 year old Grandmother to death with a claw hammer. The coroner estimated 13 blows to the head. In 1981 he was convicted.

In 1981 the state of NY allowed him to plead down to manslaughter. On top of this already reduced charge, he would have been eligible for early release credit in the state of CT. Even if he just signed up for the program but never participated...

the guy that murdered Grandma with a hammer.

After serving 17 years, he was able to bide his time until 2010. Since Spengler was a convicted felon and couldn't legally own or purchase a firearm, he recruited his neighbor's daughter to make two firearm straw purchases for him.

On December 24, 2012 Spengler set his house on fire, killed two of the firefighters responding to the blaze, injured two others, and killed his sister in the process. After his mission was accomplished, he killed himself.

How many William Spengler(s) have been released early by the Governor's program?

We all want to reduce violence, and a simple solution is staring us right in the face.

Repealing the RREC program will certainly save more than just one life, while at the same respecting the constitutional rights of every last law abiding member of our great Constitution State. No apologies will be necessary for the convicted criminals who gave up their rights when committing their crimes.