



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE
THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
Capitol: (860) 240-8875
Toll Free: (800) 842-1421
E-mail: Rob.Kane@cga.ct.gov
Website: www.SenatorKane.com

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER PRO TEMPORE AND
CAUCUS CHAIRMAN FOR POLICY

RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Sen. Coleman, Rep. Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Sen. Rob Kane, and I am testifying in favor of Senate Bill 123: AN ACT REPEALING THE RISK REDUCTION CREDIT PROGRAM.

On June 27, a 70-year-old Meriden small business owner was shot and killed at his Meriden convenience store. The man arrested for that murder was able to earn 199 days of risk reduction credits while serving time for a robbery conviction. That ruthless and heinous crime, allegedly committed by an individual who by the name of Frankie "The Razor" Resto shocked the residents of our state. Since that crime was committed, the families in my district have repeatedly asked me, "Why was this person eligible for these credits?"

I tell them that the answer to their question is that Connecticut law allows violent felons to get weeks, months, and even years taken off their court ordered prison sentences. The credits can be awarded retroactively to 2006. There is no reason to support letting violent criminals out early from prison. This program is putting our public safety at risk.

Thousands and thousands of violent inmates have been released under the risk reduction program since it began in October 2011. According to the State Victim Advocate, in the first month of the program, 33.9% of inmates were re-arrested for committing crimes. Violent crime victims and their families feel betrayed by this policy. They've lost faith in the system. In passing Senate Bill 123, you can take a step forward in restoring that faith.

Incarcerated criminals serving time for rape, kidnapping, arson, first-degree manslaughter, assault of a pregnant woman, first-degree assault, second-degree strangulation, first-degree threatening, having sex with someone under the age of 13, assault of a blind or disabled person and animal cruelty, often a predictor of violent behavior, should not participate in the program. Right now, they do. In passing this bill, you can put an end to this dangerous policy.

Sincerely,

Rob Kane, Senator
32nd Senate District