

CCDLA  
"READY IN THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY"  
FOUNDED IN 1988

Connecticut Criminal Defense  
Lawyers Association  
P.O. Box 1766  
Waterbury, CT 07621  
(860) 283-5070 telephone/facsimile  
[www.ccdla.com](http://www.ccdla.com)

April 5, 2013

Hon. Eric D. Coleman, Co-Chair  
Hon. Gerald M. Fox, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill 1152

Dear Chairmen Coleman and Fox:

CCDLA is a not-for-profit organization of more than three hundred lawyers who are dedicated to defending persons accused of criminal offenses. Founded in 1988, CCDLA is the only statewide criminal defense lawyers' organization in Connecticut. An affiliate of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, CCDLA works to improve the criminal justice system by insuring that the individual rights guaranteed by the Connecticut and United States constitutions are applied fairly and equally and that those rights are not diminished.

CCDLA supports Raised Bill 1152, An Act Concerning Petition For Release From The Requirement To Register As A Sexual Offender For Life, which enables individuals required to register on the sex offender registry for life, to petition for release from registration if they have complied with registration requirements for ten years, have complied with conditions of release, have not been convicted of a subsequent offense against a victim who is a minor, a nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent offense, and do not present a risk to public safety.

Connecticut's sex offender registry does not distinguish between specific offenses or the risk level of each offender. It groups all individuals required to register similarly, resulting in a skewed public view that every offender required to register is sexually violent or dangerous. Enabling certain individuals to seek removal from the

registry after their demonstrated ability to comply with regulations and not re-offend, provides a level of relief to those deserving of removal. Moreover, at the time the individual becomes eligible for removal, he/she will have demonstrated (after ten years) whether they are at risk of recidivating, or entitled to a fresh start free of the registry's stigma.

Several other states with similar registry schemes as Connecticut enable offenders to petition for removal from their respective sex offender registries, they are: Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Washington. Connecticut should follow the example of these states. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our position on this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Moira L. Buckley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Moira L. Buckley  
President – CCDLA  
(860) 724-1325