



**Connecticut
Sentencing
Commission**

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The Honorable
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Undersecretary
Mike Lawlor, Vice Chair

Andrew J. Clark, Acting
Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 6508

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING FALSE STATEMENT.

By Attorney Robert Farr
Chair, Classification Working Group of the Sentencing Commission

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

I am attorney Robert Farr, a member of the Classification Working Group of the Sentencing Commission. I am joined here today by Executive Assistant State's Attorney Brian Austin and Legal Counsel/Executive Assistant Public Defender Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, both of whom are also members of the Classification Working Group. We are here to testify on behalf of the Sentencing Commission in support of House Bill 6508, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING FALSE STATEMENT.

House Bill 6508 is the product of the Classification Working Group and was unanimously supported by the Sentencing Commission's Committee on Sentencing Structure, Policy and Practices, and endorsed by the full Commission through its consensus process.

Connecticut has a total of 293 "false statement" statutes which can be broken down as follows: 35 statutes cite false statements in the 1st degree and 2nd degree (Sec. 53a-157a, Sec. 153a-157b), 96 statutes utilize the term "under penalty of false statement," and 162 statutes contain different and conflicting elements.

To address these inconsistencies, the Sentencing Commission recommends:

- 1) False Statement in the 1st Degree (Sec. 53a-157a) be renamed "False Statement on a Certified Payroll;"**
- 2) Clarifying language be added to False Statement in the 1st Degree; and**
- 3) False Statement in the 2nd Degree (Sec. 53a-157b) be replaced with model statutory language which clarifies the elements of false statements.**

The Sentencing Commission's long term goal is for state agencies to align the elements in their existing false statement statutes to the proposed model statute.

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The Sentencing Commission's final recommendation is that HB 6508, be merged with SB 983, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING UNCLASSIFIED FELONIES. As we previously testified, SB 983 was also the product of the Classification Working Group and was unanimously supported by the full Sentencing Commission. It is the Sentencing Commission's belief that because both bills address clarifying Connecticut's Penal Code, they should be merged into one bill.