

Testimony

Bill # 259

“An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding the Enhanced Penalty for the Sale or Possession of Drugs Near Schools, Day Care Centers and Public Housing Projects”

March 12, 2014

To All Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My Name is Debra Mauldin; I am a UCONN MSW Student, Taxpayer, and Constituent. Thank you for the opportunity to have my voice and recommendation go on the record as being in support of Bill # 259, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding the Enhanced Penalty for the Sale or Possession of Drugs Near Schools, Day Care Centers and Public Housing Projects. “I support this bill for a number of reasons:

1. Communities of color continue to be the most impacted by the decision to have the current Bill remain the same without recommendations.
2. Allowing these recommendations into law will aid in addresses the racial disparities associated with high incarceration rates among African and Hispanics Americans in Connecticut
3. The current Bill imposes harsh penalties based on where you live and not what your crime was.
4. The current law enhances the sentencing in urban communities
5. Bill # 259 will help to reduce penalties for non-violent crimes
6. Drug Free Zones are fewer and farther apart in the suburbs. In Connecticut alone, the houses are more than 1,500 feet away from each other, therefore the schools are even farther
7. The current bill did accomplish its primary objective to keep children safe.
8. We need change
9. There are at least three state legislatures who are considering bills to reduce the size of the zones. New Jersey and Washington states have also address considerations

I ask all of you, to please consider eliminating disparity by design and support Bill #259.

Respectfully submitted,


Debra Mauldin