HB 5221

Dear,

Judiciary Committee, 7/29/2013

My name is Latone James 224820 and Im writing concerning Connecticut Sentence Commission's proposal that would give early parole to juvenile offender's. I feel that it's un-constitutional for this bill to only apply to juvenile's prior to their 18th birthday when the science on brain study concluded that the adolescent brain is not fully developed until far into the 20s. — Here in Connecticut it was established that there are 191 individuals serving sentences of more than 10 years based on crimes committed under the age of 18. There are an additional 152 serving sentences of more than 10 years based on both crimes committed under the age of 18 and crimes committed at the age of 18 or above. I would like to ask you to consider the proposal be extended and allow reviews of life sentences for all inmates who committed crimes when they were teenager's. — State's such as massachusett's and California raised the age for juvenile offender's that commit violent crimes to 21. — Considering the mass of Neuroscience establishing that adolescence constitutes a time of diminished responsibility — when the brains frontal lobes, — the seat of judgment and impulse control — are still developing.

I was just over 18 and lacked mental maturity and I fit the criterea in regards to how I grew up. When I was a teenager I simply could not imagine the consequences of my actions and definately could not understand the consequences of a man. — Not being eligible for parole and basically not being given the opportunity to rehabilitate myself and prove that I can be a productive member of —

society is not just. —

I dropped out of school in the 6th grade and began hanging out with the wrong crowds. My highschool was the activity of the streets and my college was prison. I dont think anyone ever got more out of coming to prison than me. Prison has enabled me to attack my ignorance. Growing up I was a product of what I was exposed to and I was attracted to the hustler's world and the wrong kind of influences. Im now 37 years old, I know that I can be a productive member of society and would like the opportunity to show that I can and will be a hardworking citizen.

So I ask that you please take into account all teenagers and give us all an opportunity for parole.

Sincerely,

Latone J

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Mac Dougall C.I