

TESTIMONY OF
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CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Pete Gioia. I am the vice president and economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). I am also a member of the Sentencing Commission. CBIA represents about 10,000 firms in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA would like to comment upon the following bills SB 153 and HB 5221.

SB 153

CBIA supports this bill. Our Government Affairs Program recommends that the state continue a comprehensive effort at prison reform, this bill is a positive step in that direction. The state needs to aggressively take measures to reduce recidivism. Obviously an ex offender with a job is more likely to be a good citizen than one without means of self support. It is vital that the bill include Section 7 to protect employers who employ those holding Certificates of Rehabilitation. Employers need that reassurance that they are not being negligent by giving an applicant a chance after they have been officially determined to be rehabilitated.

HB 5221

We do support this bill while recognizing that it is an emotionally charged subject. We certainly believe that our citizens safety is of paramount importance and that those who are violent need to have violent acts punished and their violence held in check from society. However, we also feel compelling evidence has repeatedly been presented to the Sentencing Commission to determine that judgment and review take place for certain young offenders as presented in this bill

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.