

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Farrell, Christopher J. <Christopher.Farrell@quinnipiac.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 7:48 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony Submission in Support of House Bills Nos. 7051 and 7052

To Whom It May Concern,

Below is the testimony that I seek to submit to the Judiciary Committee in support of House Bills Nos. 7051 and 7052.

Chris Farrell's Testimony in Support

My name is Chris Farrell, and I am enrolled at the Quinnipiac University Law School.

I am writing to express my opinion about two pieces of legislation: House Bill No. 7051 (An Act Concerning the Investigation of Fraud and Corruption) and House Bill No. 7052 (An Act Concerning Restrictions on Persons Running for Public Office Who Have Violated the Public Trust).

After reviewing media coverage, reading the legislation and discussing the proposals with fellow law students, it is clear to me that this legislation makes sense and is needed to ensure continued public confidence in government.

Public trust is fragile, and too often the whole is judged by the actions of a few. That is true for police officers. That is true for politicians. And, yes, that is true for attorneys as well.

In researching laws across that nation, Connecticut lags behind many other states in its laws fighting government corruption, including New York, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Mississippi.

Given a history of elected officials being sentenced to federal prison, I think this legislation is overdue in Connecticut.

It is time to empower state prosecutors with the ability to subpoena witnesses so they can effectively prosecute corruption at the state level instead of relying on the federal government. Accountability is the greatest deterrent, and that starts at home.

I also believe that a person who commits an egregious violation of the public trust should forfeit the right to run for public office moving forward. There are consequences for malpractice in the medical field. There are consequences for corruption in the legal profession, up to and including disbarment.

I believe our elected officials should be held to no lesser standard.
I consider myself an ethical person. And ethical people support consequences for egregious behavior.

I've grown tired of acquaintances making jokes about the character of people who choose my profession. No doubt you have experienced the same frustrations by being judged for the conduct of others.

Together, you have the ability to change that.