



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

Testimony on Raised Bill Number 6926
Judiciary Committee
March 4, 2015

Chairmen Tong and Coleman, Ranking Members Rebimbas and Kissel, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for including Section 12 in **Raised Bill 6926: An Act Concerning Lengthy Sentences for Crimes.**

The House Republican Caucus proposed four bills this session making amendments to Connecticut's Earned Risk Reduction Credit Program, and a number of our individual members also proposed bills on this topic. We are disappointed that the Judiciary Committee has failed to raise these bills for public hearing. However, we do appreciate this opportunity to testify on the program as Section 12 of Raised Bill 6926 adds two new crimes to the list of crimes that if committed would make an offender ineligible to participate in the early release program.

Since 2011, the House Republican Caucus has continually proposed legislation to ban violent offenders from participating in the early release program. We have also called for accountability and transparency in the program. We believe that if an inmate is to be awarded credits, an inmate should be required to actively participate in rehabilitative programming. Certainly, if an inmate has been cited for behavioral issues, an inmate should not continue to accumulate credits. We have heard too many instances where inmates have failed drug tests or have broken prison rules but are still let out early under the program. This is unacceptable and needs to be remedied.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to pass Raised Bill 6926 and in particular Section 12 so that we can continue to debate the merits of the Earned Risk Reduction Credit Program.

Thank you.