

Testimony of Curtis R. HB-7050

**IN SUPPORT OF HB 7050, AN ACT CONCERNING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE
SYSTEM**

Joint Committee on Judiciary

March 30, 2015

Submitted by Curtis R.

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Distinguished Members of the Committee on children, I submit this testimony in support of Section 4 of HB 7050:

About a month ago, I was shackled for a court appearance after I was remanded to detention. This made me feel so bad about myself that when I walked into the court room, I felt like an animal being prepared to be put down.

I also started to feel like I was some type of killer or a monster the way I was shackled, other people- including family called me a criminal. Still until this day I don't think it was necessary to shackle me the way I was, due to the fact that I am no animal: I am just as human as the man with the robe in front of me.

I also feel that if there is going to be 4 guards and 3 CTU staff in the courtroom with me, what is the point of shackles? Should I be shackled down in front of my family like that I know that for my grandmother seeing me like that crushed her heart into pieces.

I recommend the state should make an law and have the kids walk with their hands behind, on the side, or in front of them my theory for that would simply be that it

looks more humane also I feel it would not only stop the physical harm to kids body it can also stop the mental harm to an child.

I also feel like this shouldn't only take effect in courtrooms but also when kids go for appointments etc. I mean just the thought of having to be shackled to an hospital bed makes me sick to my stomach, and being sick to your stomach makes matters worse, who knows what people might think when they see this.

My last opinion is even adults aren't shackled in court rooms as much as children and me being someone who had to experience this first hand made me lose a lot of faith in myself and my me think to myself, is this all I am worth? Am I this much of a threat?, or Why do I get treated like so much like an animal?

Curtis R.

New Haven

Passages Program