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CONRAD OST SEIFERT  
BETH A. HOGAN\*  
\*ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW YORK  
March 4, 2015

TO: The Honorable Co-Chairs of the Judiciary Committee  
Senator Eric D. Coleman  
Representative William Tong and Members of the Judiciary Committee

RE: **Raised Bill No. 796 An Act Concerning Lengthy Sentences for Crimes Committed  
by a Child or Youth convicted of Certain Felony Offenses**

**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing March 4, 2015**

My name is Attorney Beth A. Hogan and I am here today to support Raised Bill No. 796.

The Sentencing Commission was successful in its efforts and presented legislative language under Raised Bill NO. 6581. In 2013 and in 2014 in HB 5221 the bill was successfully voted out of Judicial Committee and the House each year but it died in Senate due to time constraints in both sessions. Maybe, this year the Senate will act. Testimony from the previously year is hereby attached as exhibit A.

Now, here we are again. Please let this be the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Attorney Beth A. Hogan

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CONRAD OST SEIFERT  
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March 3, 2014

TO: The Honorable Co-Chairs of the Judiciary Committee  
Senator Eric D. Coleman  
Representative Gerald M. Fox and Members of the Judiciary Committee

RE: HB 5221-A" Second Look" at Lengthy Prison Sentences Imposed on Children

My name is Attorney Beth A. Hogan and I am here today to support Bill No. HB 5221

I support the Connecticut Sentencing Commission recommendations concerning the lengthy sentences served by children and youth who had committed a crime while under the age of eighteen years and were convicted by trial or by guilty plea of the criminal offense. This reasonable rational and equitable legislation aligns with the criteria set forth of a "meaningful review" as outlined by the United States Supreme Court in Graham and Miller. The Sentencing Commission had worked diligently towards this legislative goal during the last few years. Two years ago, the Sentencing Committee wanted more time to work on its legislative recommendations and to reach consensus by its diverse membership. The Sentencing Commission was successful in its efforts and presented legislative language under Raised Bill NO. 6581. In 2013, the bill was successfully voted out of Judicial Committee and House members passed the bill in 137-4 vote but it died in Senate due to time constraints and proximity to the expiration of the 2013 session.

Now, here we are again. This time I respectfully request this process be expedited so that House and Senate Members have to opportunity to act. This legislative language in HB 5221 provides the same guidelines and balance as the language contained in Raised Bill No. 6581.

At this point in the legislative process, the years of testimony on brain development and the capacity for rehabilitation and the United States Supreme Court's decisions regarding Juvenile Justice, I believe we are now fully educated to approve and implement this legislation based on all the years of studies, testimony and the United States Supreme Court decisions.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Attorney Beth A. Hogan