



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill Number 1129
Judiciary Committee
April 01, 2015

Chairmen Tong and Coleman, Ranking Members Rebimbas and Kissel and Members of the Judiciary Committee, the House Republican Caucus would like to thank the Committee for raising **Senate Bill Number 1129: An Act Establishing a Pilot Program to Identify and Track the Homeless, Addicted or Mentally Ill Persons Entering the Justice System and Concerning the Earned Risk Reduction Credit Program.**

Improving the Earned Risk Reduction Credit program is an extremely important issue to the House Republican Caucus. This legislative session, the House Republican Caucus introduced three bills, House Bill Number 6237, An Act Concerning the Earned Risk Reduction Credit Program, House Bill Number 6189, An Act Concerning Clarification of the Earned Risk Reduction Credit Program, and House Bill Number 6476, An Act Concerning Accountability for the Earned Risk Reduction Credit Program, to address our concerns with the current Earned Risk Reduction Credit Program.

Although the House Republican Caucus bills were not provided a public hearing, Senate Bill Number 1129 includes a few changes to the Earned Risk Reduction Program our caucus bills aimed to accomplish. Senate Bill Number 1129 expands the list of crimes for which an inmate is sentenced and becomes ineligible to earn risk reduction credits and requires the warden to review and verify an inmate's record if risk reduction credits are being applied to reduce such inmate's sentence. Senate Bill Number 1129 and the House Republican Caucus Bill Number 6237 both expand the list of crimes to include: manslaughter in the first degree under section 53a-55 of the general statutes, manslaughter in the first degree with a firearm under section 53a-55a of the general statutes, assault of a pregnant woman resulting in termination of pregnancy under section 53a-59c of the general statutes, and aggravated sexual assault of a minor under section 53a-70c of the general statutes. We hope the committee will consider expanding the aforementioned list of crimes to include crimes put forth in House

Republican Caucus Bill 6237, including, but not limited to: assault in the first degree under section 53a-59 of the general statutes, sexual assault in the first degree under section 53a-70 of the general statutes, kidnapping in the first degree under section 53a-92 of the general statutes, and kidnapping in the first degree with a firearm under section 53a-92a of the general statutes.

Senate Bill Number 1129 requires the warden to review and verify an inmate's record if risk reduction credits are being applied to reduce such inmate's sentence. House Republican Caucus Bill Number 6476, An Act Concerning Accountability for the Earned Risk Reduction Credit Program, requires inmates adhere to their offender accountability plans. Under our proposal, inmates failing to adhere to their plan shall not be awarded earned risk reduction credits and inmates should only receive credits for successful completion of course offerings or programming. Most importantly, our proposal requires the loss of all earned risk reduction credits for inmates who test positive for drug use while incarcerated. We hope the warden's review and verification of an inmate's record as prescribed in Senate Bill 1129 will take into account the factors as outlined in House Republican Caucus Bill 6476.

Improvements to the Earned Risk Reduction Credit Program are crucial to the public safety of Connecticut residents and the successful reintroduction of lower-risk offenders into the community. We urge the Judiciary Committee to pass Senate Bill Number 1129 in order to ensure offender accountability and to exempt dangerous criminals from receiving early release through the Earned Risk Reduction Credit Program.