

**Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda**

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**From:** rhtroy@troylegal.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2015 8:15 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 1129

I am saddened to see yet another bill that would automatically lock folks in prison rather than leave to judges and other professionals the decision as to whether further confinement is warranted. We resorted to these "automatic" lockup devices decades ago as we fought drugs and other ills. We saw our CT prison population skyrocket from the 3,000 range in 1980 to close to 20,000 a few years ago, and back down now in the 17,000 range. Yes, many of those locked up were of the non-violent variety - not the violent sorts being addressed by Senate Bill 1129. But the same defect underlies this bill. It automatically locks folk up whether they require it or not. That is how we got into trouble three and four decades ago. Let's not keep repeating the same old mistake of burdening our jails and the taxpayer just because it is easy to write a law with "automatic" lockup. Let's take the smarter path of states such as Texas and Missouri and Oregon and get rid of these "automatic" provisions. We will reduce the (taxpayer) cost of confinement and keep folk from being unnecessarily penalized.

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