

Bianca, Pam

From: Hannan, Tracey <Tracey.Hannan@ct.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 3:34 PM
To: LABTestimony
Subject: Bill
Attachments: hazardous duty.docx

Hello,

Please forward this e-mail and the attached testimonial to Senator Ed Gomes.

Hello Senator Gomes,

Please **support** raised bill **6879** concerning **hazardous duty and certain department of corrections staff with regard to a statute change to benefit clerical.**

Attached is a listing of items that have been part of my career with the DOC. I've worked here for 24 years and worked side by side with people that get the hazardous duty retirement. The clericals are the **ONLY** group of people that work inside a Correctional Institution that do **NOT** receive this retirement.

Please support this bill.

Any questions, please contact me.

To Whom it May Concern,

*I calculate inmate's sentences which are all based upon court decisions and directives.

*I set up the transportation of inmates - to include court trips and transfers.

*I instruct inmate's on their sentences and jail credit via inmate requests.

*I instruct inmate's on their speedy trial privileges', detainers and out of state detainers via inmate requests.

*I have been sued by inmate's who think I've calculated their time incorrectly.

*I have written an Incident Report and a Disciplinary Report (2002) with regards to an inmate threatening myself and my family because he did not agree with how I calculated his time.

*I am required to complete hours of training a year, to include the same training hazardous duty personnel need to take.

*I am required to take CPR training. I am required to perform CPR on any staff member or inmate that needs assistance.

*I instruct an inmate janitor, daily, who reports to clerical staff in the Records area where I currently work. He is in our corridor approximately 5 to 6 hours a day.

*In my total career with the DOC, to get to my workplace I've had to go through locked doors. In some cases, more than one locked door. I can NOT get out of my place of work on my own due to the locked doors. Once inside I am subjected to a risky environment to include risk of assault, sexual assault, blood and airborne pathogens, drugs, and etc.

*I receive \$.65 an hour extra for hours worked in a "hazardous duty" job. My paycheck says Hazardous Duty, not unpleasant duty. The \$.65 is what they give us instead of the hazardous duty retirement. Is my life less valuable than anyone else in the DOC that I should not be entitled to the hazardous duty retirement? All employees in the facilities receive hazardous duty retirement, with the exception of the clericals.

*My job title is the only job in the clerical union with the word Correctional in the title. Correctional Identification and Record Specialist. All hazardous duty retirement employees have the word Correctional in their titles.

*I have been in the DOC since 1990 and have always been around inmates. In 1992-1994 I worked at Walker CI in the same corridor with Admitting and Processing. In that corridor was the bullpens that held numerous inmates transferring in and out, inmates taking showers and inmate's entering our work area to ask questions. Our bathroom was right near the inmate's showers and bullpens. The worksites are within the confines of a hazardous work area.

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*In 1994-1995, to get to my office in J-Unit, I had to walk down a main corridor at MacDougall CI. There was mass movement in this hallway every day. My office was in the entranceway to J-Unit. This is where all the inmates in the unit would enter and exit their units. There was constant inmate movement and inmates would ask questions of me daily. When an incident occurred in the facility, huge riot gates would drop in the main corridor locking us in that portion of the institution. There was no exit.

*Worked at a level 5 facility for 12 years where I was constantly instructing inmates via inmate requests with regards to time and all aspects of records (IAD, bonds, jail credit, etc.) I was sued by inmates, threatened by inmates and had to appear in court to testify while the inmate was present.

*Between 2007-2012 I attended status hearings with the Assistant Attorney General's and the Judge at Rockville Court. During these hearings the inmates were present in a small enclosed conference room where we instructed the inmates on any questions he had to try to avoid a habeas hearing with regards to time calculation.

*Between 2007-2012 I had to testify numerous times on behalf of the State of CT. with regards to time calculation. The inmate's were always present.

*Working conditions on my job descriptions have said "Incumbents in this class may be exposed to some risk of injury or assault by inmates". I have a copy of a Record Specialist job description.

*I received a letter informing us, the clerical, that Senator John Kissel signed on as a co-sponsor of Labor and Public Employees Committee House Bill 5650 - An Act Extending Hazardous Duty Retirement Benefits for Clerical Workers in Correctional Institutions.

*If there is a facility emergency - we may be asked to help with the securing of the facility and placed where needed.

*During a mock drill at Northern CI, I was required to stay until 10:30 PM - no exceptions - no one was allowed to leave the building until the drill was complete. The facility was put into lock down status. If a real emergency situation arises, it would be the same.

*I had a visitor approach my workstation in a total panic. And inmate had approached them in the parking lot and was going to take their car. The inmate then proceeded to run across the street and try to escape.

Tracey Hannan, Correctional Identification and Record Specialist.

5/20/14

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