

HB 6219 An Act Concerning Community Reentry by People who were Incarcerated

Lawrence ALBERT Ed.D., Families in Crisis

My name is Lawrence Albert and I am here today in support of HB 6219. I am the former Acting Ct. Commissioner of Correction, the Deputy Commissioner of Correction in charge of programs and services for 14 years; and, have 30 plus years of correction in Ct., Ma., and around the country. I consulted for the National Institute of Correction for several years putting in place programs between correction (including parole), the police and social service agencies to help parolees remain in the community.

I also serve on the board of Families in Crisis (FIC), a state wide agency whose mission is to assist offenders and their families during incarceration and as they return to their home. FIC works with the Connecticut Prison Association (CPA) on a small scale program in Hartford providing employment and family support services to offenders and their families.

Many studies support employment having a positive impact on reducing recidivism; and, keeping them in the community. In addition this keeps families together and assists in helping communities remain intact thereby greatly reducing the need for taxpayer support of families(including their children); and, helping communities stay more stable.

The tax incentives provided in this bill supplements existing Federal incentives to employers.

The bill is a good and important first step in assisting ex-offenders stay in the community and dramatically reduce the financial and social costs associated with incarceration- to the ex-offender, the family, the community and the State of Connecticut!

Thanks for opportunity to testify.