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To whom it may concern:

We support all efforts to encourage and to incent the private sector to actively hire former offenders. As noted in the recent Employment Survey conducted by Malta Justice Initiative, hiring former offenders is good public policy that goes to the heart of resolving the problem of over incarceration which the US and Connecticut have experienced over the past thirty years. It is in everyone's interest to have former offenders employed and active participants in their families and communities.

Not only is it in the public's best interest, our experience has been that it is also in the interest of employers to do so - - contrary to what has been commonly reported by the media and the expectation of many.

We are a small manufacturing company with 25 employees and have found that former offenders are often better employees than those never incarcerated. Perhaps because former offenders realize how difficult it is for them to find a job, when they do they are particularly appreciative which is often expressed by being model employees with a strong sense of loyalty to their employer.

Our experience is not unusual. Companies that have actually hired former offenders frequently share the same observations that we have found to be true.

We encourage the State to adopt programs and legislation that actively supports hiring former offenders.

Sincerely,

William J. Fox
President