

Testimony in Favor of Proposed Bill 6219

Monday, February 20, 2017
11:56 PM

Subject	Testimony in Favor of Proposed Bill 6219
From	Tai Walker
To	LABTestimony
Sent	Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:53 PM

To Labor and Public Board Committee:

I write you today in support of the Proposed House Bill 6219- "AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY REENTRY BY PERSONS WHO WERE INCARCERATED."

Some case studies have shown, "that ex prisoners and or ex-felons who secure employment after his/her release from prison, do not return to prison." Studies also say, "employment helps keep crime down;" facts which are undisputed. However, in the state of Connecticut, it has been most difficult for ex-felons or ex-prisoners to regain an equal chance to improve and better one's life through gainful employment.

How do I know these things? It's because I myself am an ex-prison and have suffered firsthand experience of being discriminated by the workforce. The difference between most prisoners and me is that I had my Bachelors Degree prior to prison and obtained my Master's degree after prison. Thus, I was educated enough to decide that I was no longer going to set myself up for failure, allow people to judge me based on my past, and or decide for me whether or not I should be able to earn an honest living.

Therefore, I gained enough courage to stop applying for employment opportunities in CT and sought other opportunities in New York where the odds of rejection were less likely. I further leveraged my long-standing relationships in NY and throughout the world for referrals. In 2012, I launched my first partnership in a startup restaurant in Brooklyn, NY. We now have three operating locations in NYC, where we already employ person(s) with criminal records. As of January 2017, I took my success even further, and I am now launching my first restaurant brand here in Hartford, CT. A place in which I am a native of, a place where my crimes were committed, and where I am now a turned law abiding citizen and humbled Boss Man, prepared to give an opportunity to those who were also formerly incarcerated.

In closing, our society and the supervised conditions of release through adult probation here in Connecticut, continues to make it tough on ex-prisoners/felons to reenter the workforce simply because there is not enough labor legislation to:

- A. Penalized anyone who intentionally violates labor laws that protect these classes of people
- B. Bar against ill discretion and acts by probation and parole officers who intentionally attempts to prevent a person from seeking and or maintaining his/her gainful employment.
- C. Help change the perception of how our society views and reacts to a persons reentry

D. Help educate, train, support, and provide scoring systems, to help key decision makers of local businesses here in Connecticut, distinguish thier personal values or beliefs from legislative intent to improve our workforce by hiring person (s) with a criminal record.

I pray for grantorship of Proposed House Bill 6219 to be passed, so that together we can make a positive change in the lives of our ex-felons in our communities, economic stability for both businesses and individuals alike, and to improve our recidivism rates through purposeful legislation in the labor force.

Thank you sincerely for your listening ears.

Respectfully,

Tai Walker, MLS, CEO

The Tai Walker Company, LLC.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)