

HB6219

Subject	HB6219
From	<u>Sandra Wiens</u>
To	LABTestimony
Sent	Thursday, February 16, 2017 9:06 AM

I am writing in support of HB6219, An act concerning community re-entry by persons who were incarcerated.

Our church, First Congregational Church, Guilford, CT has been involved in re-entry programs for 17 years. We have learned that returning citizens have a much greater chance of success in life if they have been supported by a sound re-entry program. We have been working with Community Partners in Action, a program based in Hartford. Particularly we have worked with the residents in Marts House, an excellent program whose funding has been lost. A grant from our church has extended its life for 4 more months, but it is a tragedy that the program will end.

We are now working with people to see if we can start a similar program in New Haven for women being released from York. This bill would certainly benefit our efforts.

Please see that it passes with sufficient funding!

Sincerely,
The Reverend Dr. Sandra Wiens
Guilford Ct.