



Connecticut Working Families Organization  
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Testimony in Support of  
**HB5544: AAC the Recommendations of the CT Sentencing Commission with Respect to  
Misdemeanor Sentences**

**March 21, 2018 | Judiciary Committee Hearing**

Dear Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Carlos Moreno, State Director of the CT Working Families Organization (CTWFO). We are a growing progressive political organization that fights for an economy that works for all of us, and a democracy in which every voice matters. We believe that our children's life chances must not be determined at birth, and that America must be a nation that allows all its people to thrive.

The CTWFO is in full support of House Bill 5544: An Act Concerning Connecticut Misdemeanor Sentences. This proposal would reduce the maximum length of all misdemeanor convictions in Connecticut from 365 days to 364 days. Doing so would help stem the prison-to-deportation pipeline, which funnels community members who served their time in state correctional facilities for low level offenses directly into automatic immigration detention and deportation proceedings. Additionally, it would allow immigration judges greater discretion to consider the totality of the circumstances in considering applications for immigration relief.

I urge the committee to vote in favor of HB5544. We cannot allow discriminatory laws at the federal level to further devastate the lives of our community members.

Sincerely,

Carlos Moreno  
CT Working Families Organization