

March 25, 2019
Judiciary Committee

Hello, my name is Tiana Krause. I am from Bridgeport, CT. Thank you, Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and members of the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to testify today. I am here in support of three bills: HB No 6714 An Act Concerning Telecommunications Services in Correctional Facilities, SB 880 An Act Increasing Fairness and Transparency in the Criminal Justice System and H.B. 7389 An Act Concerning Confidentiality in the Case of Discretionary Transfer of a Juvenile Case to the Regular Criminal Docket in Implementing the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.

I support HB 6714 because I currently have a friend incarcerated and our phone calls are vital. I am a 19-year-old student working as hard as I can to have enough money to call my friend. Sometimes having enough money to call my friend means skipping breakfast because I know my friend needs our conversation. My friend has been in a facility where he is confined in his cell for 23 hours of the day, meaning our 15 min phone calls are sometimes the only social interactions he receives all day. One call is \$3.50. Saving \$7 each day could change the scope of my finances and make me better able to further myself so I can help my friend re-enter.

I am in favor of S.B. No. 880 but would ask that this bill be amended to include youth. In order to tackle any of the important issues or questions surrounding juvenile justice or why children continue to interact with the system this way is through data concerning prosecutorial transparency. If we are unaware how these life altering decisions are being made we will continue to fly blindly, incarcerating youth that more often than not need outside intervention and rehabilitation.

I am in favor of 7389 because MYI is no place for children. I have read the OCA report on MYI including the conditions of confinement. It has been reported that practices at MYI are furthering the severity of the children's mental health. It has been proven time and time again that it's pretty much a guarantee that they will have additional interaction with prison, meaning the services we're providing, or lack thereof, are not working. We need more facilities that promote growth and rehabilitation in every facet. The one hour of productivity they are allotted a day in which you are expected to shower and make phone calls sends the message that there's nothing better our children could be doing to better themselves and the scope of their communities and that's simply untrue.

Thank you again for the chance to testify today.