

## Blanchard, Deborah

---

**From:** Atty. Kenneth J. Speyer <attyspeyer@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 24, 2019 11:48 AM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 880

To the Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee and the General Assembly:

My name is Kenneth Speyer. I live in New Britain, CT.

I strongly support SB 880, concerning Prosecutorial Transparency.

In recent years the General Assembly has established reporting requirements for state and local police. These requirements have improved, and will continue to improve, relations between police and the communities they serve. But state prosecutors have enormous discretion, with almost no transparency and very little oversight. Prosecutorial transparency is necessary to create both the reality and the perception of fairness in our criminal justice system. Perception of fairness is essential to establish public trust in and cooperation with our court system.

This bill also establishes a long overdue, pilot program for legal representation in bail revocation hearings. Often parolees who are suspected of a new crime -- which they may or may not have actually committed -- are not prosecuted for the new offense, but instead face revocation of parole, without the legal protections of a criminal prosecution. Without legal representation, they cannot receive a fair adjudication, so some innocent men and women are effectively found guilty and returned to prison. This exacerbates the natural tendency of police, prosecutors and judges to view past offenders as likely to have committed an otherwise unsolved, new crime. Nearly all parolees, potential parolees and their families and friends are aware of this danger, which undermines our efforts to rehabilitate those who have been convicted of the first offense.

Parole revocations for alleged conduct which does not constitute a crime, but which, if true, would be a violation of parole, also carries the risk of re-incarceration for a long period of time. This largely raises the same issues as revocation for a new, alleged criminal offense.

Thank you for your time and consideration.