



**Testimony Regarding House Bill No. 6921, An Act Concerning Discrimination Based on a Person's Criminal History**

Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Airport Authority

Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees  
February 26, 2019

Dear Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Miner, Representative Polletta, and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

My name is Kevin Dillon, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA). **I am submitting this testimony regarding House Bill No. 6921, An Act Concerning Discrimination Based on a Person's Criminal History.**

While we understand and commend the intent of this legislation, we must stress the importance of accounting for agencies, like the CAA, who must comply with federal requirements. Due to these obligations, the CAA must ask each of our prospective employees (and those of any employer working at Bradley International Airport) regarding their criminal histories when applying for a security badge at the airport. All employees are required to maintain a security badge, and we are federally required to run a background check (administered by the FBI) on our employees to ensure that they are qualified to hold such badge and serve in an airport setting. Currently, this background check entails vetting employees against 28 disqualifying offenses with a ten-year lookback period, and the federal government intends to increase that period to 15 years and potentially add additional disqualifying offenses. The federal government requires that individuals with certain criminal histories not be granted a security badge, and we respectfully request that the committee exempt employers who are federally required to consider an applicant's criminal history if this legislation progresses further.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Please feel free to contact me at (860) 292-2054 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Airport Authority