

Anderson, Bryan

From: Alex Kawa <alexkawa20@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 5:22 PM
To: LABTestimony
Subject: HB 6921 Testimony

Hello, my name is Alex Kawa, and I am a 16-year-old student at Avon High School (AHS). I am affiliated with a group of like-minded politically active students at AHS, and we support HB 6921: AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON A PERSON'S CRIMINAL HISTORY. We ask that the following testimony be read on our behalf during tomorrow's public hearing regarding this bill: "Ladies and gentlemen of the committee. We are a coalition of politically active students at Avon High School committed to helping improve the criminal justice system in our state and country. We will be testifying today in support of HB 6921: AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON A PERSON'S CRIMINAL HISTORY.

Throughout the United States, hosts of people with criminal records are unable to find decent employment, housing, etc., after they have completed their sentences. This is a major roadblock to ex-convicts who have done their time, paid their debt to society, and rehabilitated themselves; people who deserve second chances in life. Two of the reasons for America's high recidivism rate is the fact that several ex-convicts are considered unemployable by many employers, and that they are denied public housing. If these people were allowed jobs and housing, among other things, it would have a positive impact on the recidivism rate. By passing HB 6921 into law, Connecticut can lead the way in reducing America's recidivism rate from its current high levels by giving ex-convicts who have rehabilitated themselves a second chance.

According to the ACLU of Connecticut, barriers to housing and education are among the more than 600 legal barriers ex-convicts in the state face to reentering society. This is not right. Connecticut must get HB 6921 codified into law in order to give ex-convicts the second chances they deserve.

Thank you for your time,

The Democrats of Avon High School!"