Testimony of Sylvester Edward
member of the Katal Center for Health
Equity and Justice
In support of SB 233, An Act Concerning Elections
Government Administration
and Elections Committee
February 28, 2020

Good morning members of the Government Administration and Election Committee. My name is Sylvester Edward and I’m a member of Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice. I support the proposed bill, SB 233. I’m coming to you as a citizen and as a human who deserves to be heard. I am no longer a parolee but I am someone who has been effected by parole and the system that surrounds it. As parolees, we do not have a say in the communities that we live in; we cannot vote, and we cannot leave our community because we are on parole. All of that makes us limited to what we can do to achieve the American Dream.

I believe the parole system and the laws that preside over us are bias and unforgiving. As a citizen in the community, I would think that I would be able to vote especially if I can’t leave. Wouldn’t you think so? It’s almost like you become an indentured servant only able to work and pay taxes to the same community that mutes your opinion and suspends you right to free travel.

I am an American. I am a citizen. I am a resident of the state of Connecticut. I ask that the Committee be revised to allow every citizen to have a say in what will affect them as it has affected me my family and my future.

Thank you for your time.

Sylvester Edward