

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OPPOSING House Bill 6670 - AN ACT CONCERNING A MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR INJURY OR RISK OF INJURY OF A CHILD.

Position: Opposing

March 30, 2021

Co-Chairs Sen. Winfield & Rep. Stafstrom, Vice Chairs Kasser & Blumenthal, Ranking Members Sen. Kissel & Rep. Fishbein, and esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Andrew Osmun, and I am a resident of New Haven. I am a member of Restorative Action Alliance, Inc. (RAA), a regional advocacy group, and a voice for reform of the criminal legal system, advocating for restorative justice.

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 6670- AN ACT CONCERNING A MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR INJURY OR RISK OF INJURY OF A CHILD.

My personal experience includes being sexually molested as a child by my pediatrician and being the parent of a son who committed sexual harm with young girls for which he is serving time in Federal Prison.

The purpose of this bill is something everyone should support: “To protect children...” Sadly this bill, through the imposition of mandatory sentencing will not accomplish that goal and that is why I OPPOSE this bill. It has become clear that the establishment of mandatory minimum sentencing and ‘three strikes’ laws have had the unintended consequence of sending more people to prison in this country than has ever been true, and creating more barriers to successful re-entry into society and a productive and contributing life. As is said in restorative justice practice: “Harm to individuals who have harmed others does not result in healing, but rather increases the likelihood that they will continue in the destructive self defeating actions that brought them into the criminal legal system in the first place.

What reduces this cycle and would actually protect children is investing in education, in support for individuals who have been harmed, and provision of the resources so absent from highly impacted communities.

This bill would remove the ability of a judge to evaluate what course of action would be most likely to enable an individual to overcome the cycle of harm, incarcerating them for their actions and giving little guidance as to what “the morals of such child are likely to be impaired” could mean.



How I would like to have been spared my own experience of molestation, and the harm one of my sons committed. This bill would not reduce potential harm, it would simply extend the folly of mass incarceration, absorbing resources that could actually reduce harm.

Therefore, I oppose this bill and ask the committee to vote against it.

