

Written Testimony Submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Joint Committee on Judiciary in support of Raised Senate Bill No. 1019: An Act Concerning The Board Of Pardons And Paroles, Erasure Of Criminal Records For Certain Misdemeanor And Felony Offenses, Prohibiting Discrimination Based On Erased Criminal History Record Information And Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to Misdemeanor Sentences

To the distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Queenie Collins. My husband, Theodore Gandy, and I live in Glastonbury and are constituents of Senator Cassano and Representative Doucette.

We are writing to ask that you work to ensure passage of the clean slate bill that includes low-level felony convictions. This bill would help to relieve formerly incarcerated individuals and their families of the lifelong burdens that come with having a criminal record. As nearly 1 in 3 Black men are have criminal records, compared to 8% of the total population, this is also unfairly impactful on Black families. This is a racial justice issue.

It would allow people who have already been punished to support themselves, provide for their families, and contribute to their communities. That will have an impact on generations to come because nearly half of American children have a parent with a criminal record. This is an economic justice and family protection issue.

As a person of faith, this is important to us because we believe in the dignity and worth of every person. We want a bill that:

- Includes all misdemeanors and Class C, D, and E felonies (except sex crimes and family violence)
- Does not have a waiting period that exceeds that of the current petition-based system
- Applies retroactively
- Includes antidiscrimination protections for people with records

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,
Queenie Collins & Theodore Gandy
Glastonbury CT

Member: Progressive Women for Greater Hartford
Members: Immanuel Congregational Church, Hartford