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[www.OneStandardOfJustice.org](http://www.OneStandardOfJustice.org)

*OSJ is a volunteer-based civil rights organization committed to ensuring that persons accused or convicted of sexual offenses in Connecticut are treated constitutionally and fairly by the state before, during, and after their sentences. We believe communities are safer with rational laws and with a focus on prevention of sexual harm and the healing of all those affected by it. We believe any sexual offense is one too many.*

**SB1019 - 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**

*Testimony Opposing Exclusions in Raised Senate Bill 1019*

Good morning Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom and all esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Sharon Dorne and I live in Southbury Ct. I am a sexual assault “survivor” who believes in the humanity of all people regardless of their offenses or convictions. I am a member of One Standard of Justice, a volunteer organization in our state committed to the civil rights of those accused of or convicted of sexual offenses in Connecticut.

I speak to you today regarding the bills discriminatory exclusion of those convicted of family violence, non-violent sexual assault and sexually violent assault. I do not support that language and can only support the bill if it is removed.

As a survivor of a violent crime you might expect that I would not be in support of this bill at all. Instead, I believe that everyone with convictions of the misdemeanors and felonies included in this bill, without exception, deserve a path toward automatic erasure and a clean slate. I cannot look through only one lens in my role as a human being. People with sex offenses should not be singled out as unworthy of inclusion on this bill. Though well intended, those who crafted this bill chose through misinformation and fear, to carve out of the bill, C and D class felonies that are sexual in nature. This population of men and women in Connecticut deserve the same path to erasure of their criminal records as everyone else who would be eligible through this bill.

One Standard of Justice has been promoting and providing webinars to share the most up to date information that address evidence based reform, recidivism rates, restorative justice practices and science. If this committee continues to listen to outdated, misleading information and continues to bury their heads in the sand regarding the evidence based research available, then we will continue to have a flawed system based on fear, that is only punitive in nature and wastes time and resources. We punish those who commit offenses and we all understand what it means to “do your time” and “pay your debt” to society, but when all people with sex offenses are deemed “irreparable” and “unredeemable” then we are also guilty. Guilty of losing opportunities for honest discussion and true reform.

There is evidence that most people convicted of a sexual offense remain offense-free in their communities and over time become less likely to reoffend sexually than an individual who has never committed a sexual offense. We must stop looking at them as lifelong threats to society. Think what could be done with our states resources if we could shed the outdated, misinformed policies that do not benefit a Safer CT, and keep this population from being treated with dignity, the same dignity we all want and need.

We cannot throw people away. Although it may be flawed, we have a system in place that deals with sex offenses. That system arrests, convicts, incarcerates, imposes conditions of release, provides therapy, and monitors through parole and probation. When do we start to provide a system that then considers that they have “paid their debts” and “done their time?” We cannot play God.

I am fortunate to be a survivor. I am fortunate that I am a member of One Standard of Justice and have met and spoken to men on the sex offenses registry who I am privileged to speak for today.

Thank you for your time.

Register in advance for this webinar:

**April 12 - Mary Koss PhD et al presents:**

*Experience from Practicing Restorative Justice for Sex Crimes: Trauma, Justice Needs, Participant Satisfaction, Equity, Law, and the Future.*

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_YXf30UzmQ0eIL6f6rK2T\\_A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YXf30UzmQ0eIL6f6rK2T_A)

Previous webinars:

Webinar Video - Dr. R. Karl Hanson: Sexual offense recidivism risk: Not what you think

<https://OneStandardOfJustice.org/dr-r-karl-hanson-sexual-offense-recidivism-risk-not-what-you-think/>

Webinar Video - Katherine Gotch: Evidence-Based Reform: Finding New Ways Forward

<https://OneStandardOfJustice.org/evidence-based-reform-finding-new-ways-forward/>