



NORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Hugh B. Hamilton, Pastor

March 8, 2021

To the Honorable Senator Winfield, the Honorable Representative Stafstrom, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Hugh B. Hamilton, Pastor of North United Methodist Church (NUMC) since 2001 and Chief Executive Office for North Family Life Center, Inc (NFLC); the community outreach arm of NUMC. I'm writing in support of the Judiciary Committee SB 1019.

For over 15 years, we've been active participants in the Angel Tree Prison Ministry where we donate dozens of gifts to children of the incarcerated at Christmas. The Clean Slate bill will put formerly incarcerated parents in a position to provide for their families.

A second chance is fundamental to the notion of hope and the ideal to be our best selves. The Judeo-Christian teaching is that a merciful God gives us many chances and teaches us that we must be merciful as God is merciful. Any law that condemns the human being with no prospect of recovery, flies in the face of this teaching and denies a theology of hope without which none of us can survive.

Past offenders need hope as well. We all need a clean slate from time to time.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Dr. Hugh B. Hamilton