

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

I am Sister Barbara-Jean Kubik, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and a member GHIAA. I am writing in support Raised Senate Bill No: 1019.

Those who will be against this bill will try to raise racist concerns. Statistics show that there are many people of color who have been incarcerated with longer sentences than their white peers. I am **white** and live in West Hartford Connecticut. **I am not afraid** of a clean slate bill. I also believe that people who have served their sentences have done their time and paid their so-called “debt” to society, yet their record remains with them for life, limiting their ability to find housing in a safe neighborhood, to get financial aid and acceptance to some colleges and to get a good paying job. This creates conditions of poverty and despair and perhaps even a return to crime due to unacceptable ways to provide for themselves and their families. We have heard many statements from persons who have earned degrees and yet are unable to find jobs in the field for which they have prepared due to their past criminal record.

As a Christian, I believe that redemption is possible and individuals deserve a second chance. Given the means for education and the willingness to provide more than adequately for family members is an incentive that many incarcerated have that has enabled them to remain crime free after their release.

I am in support of raised senate bill number 1019 because it would include all misdemeanors and class C, D & E Felonies. This bill will also apply retroactively end it would include anti-discrimination protections for people with records.

Not only with this bill be good for the individuals who benefit from it but it would also benefit our society as well from an economic standpoint. A criminal record reduces a job seeker’s chance of getting a call back for a job offer by nearly 50% . The 2019 study in Michigan found that those who have had their records expunged set a 25% pay increase after just two years. The study of the US military found the individuals with felony records were promoted more rapidly and to higher ranks than others and were no more likely to be discharged for negative reasons that individuals without records.

I thank you for listening to this statement of support and hope that Clean Slate will be passed for the good of all citizens of CT.

Barbara-Jean Kubik, SNDdeN
March 9, 2021