

Testimony to the Judiciary Committee In Support of Senate Bill 1019, Clean Slate  
3/10/2021

To Co-Chairs Sen. Winfield & Rep. Stafstrom, Ranking members Sen. Kissel & Rep. Fishbein and esteemed members of the judiciary committee :

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB1019; AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES, ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS & FELONY OFFENSES, PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ERASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS INFORMATION & CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CT. SENTENCING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO MISDEMEANOR SENTENCES.

My name is Beth Lazar, a resident of Bridgeport. I support SB1019, for the automatic erasure of criminal records— clean slate. Mass incarceration has had a real ongoing consequences in Connecticut, disproportionately hurting black and brown communities in our state and burdening hundreds of thousands of Connecticut residents with a criminal record. Records present barriers to employment, housing, occupational licensing and higher education. Nine in 10 employers, 4 in 5 landlords, 3 in 4 colleges use background checks. Clean slate will automatically expunge records of people who have served their time, return to our communities and remain crime free. A criminal record should not be a lifetime sentence.

CLEAN SLATE makes communities safer. A study from the University of Michigan law school found that recidivism rates for people who had their record expunged are so low that they actually "pose a lower risk than the general population as a whole". With SB1019, Connecticut can strengthen our economy, improve public safety and advance racial justice. I encourage all members of the judiciary committee, on both sides of the aisle to support this important measure. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone