

March 9, 2021

Written Testimony Submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Joint Committee on Judiciary in **Support of Senate Bill 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:

My name is Cori Mackey and I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1019 and especially in support of maintaining class C, D, and E felonies. I am the executive director of the Center for Leadership and Justice which is home to the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). We have over 38 member congregations, many of which are predominately white congregations in the suburbs, that are fully behind this legislation with the inclusion of felony convictions.

For too long important criminal justice reforms have stalled or been extremely watered down by pitting white people and people of color against each other in these efforts. As a white mother of three young children, I fully support SB1019 precisely because it provides relief to people with felony convictions. Anything short of this is not wiping any slate clean and doesn't deserve the title.

There are many moral and ethical reasons to pass clean slate legislation and we shouldn't have to point out financial incentives for doing what is right, but those arguments exist as well. [If not for mass incarceration](#) and the collateral consequences of a criminal record, the U.S. poverty rate could have dropped a full 20% between 1980 and 2004.

[In 2014, the employment penalty](#) for felony convictions cost the U.S. economy 1.9 million workers

The time to pass clean slate legislation is now. Do not let class C, D, and E felony convictions drop from this legislation.

Thank you for your support.

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