

March 7, 2021

TO:

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

[judtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:judgetestimony@cga.ct.gov).

FROM:

James F Norden

St Ann's Episcopal Church

Old Lyme CT

RE:

I support the clean slate bill raised in the Judiciary Committee (**S.B. 1019**). Passing a real, robust, inclusive clean slate bill would allow people who have already been punished to support themselves, provide for their families, and contribute to their communities. Clean slate would automatically expunge the criminal records of people who have returned to outside society and remained crime free for a period of time. I **support Raised Senate Bill No. 1019** because it would:

Include all misdemeanors and Class C, D, and E felonies (convictions for 10 years or less), **excluding** convictions for sex crimes and family violence

Apply retroactively

Include antidiscrimination protections for people with records

Please note that a white person in Connecticut's suburbs, I have no reservation or fears for the outcome of this much needed bill.

The fact is that for those of us who have committed wrongful acts; as I and all of us have done at some point, it is within society's charge to be able to forgive these so upward, honest and productive lives can then be lived.

As our elected representatives, please hear our voices calling for this forgiveness and remove this undue burden and allow freedom to take hold in a positive productive way.

Sincerely,

James F. Norden

Old Lyme, CT