

Testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly's Judiciary Committee
In support of Senate Bill No. 1019
3/10/2021

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 S.B. 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.

My name is Elizabeth Saria and I am a member of Hartford Monthly Meeting of Quakers which is a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance. **I am white** and a resident in a **suburb area** of Bloomfield, CT. I support passage of SB No 1019 because **I would be safer with its passage and my faith views it as a step towards racial justice**. By expunging records of persons who have served their time and have been free of crime since their release we will see such persons able to get training to find better jobs, find higher paying jobs, obtain valuable professional licenses and find better housing (9 in 10 employers, 4 in 5 landlords, and 3 in 4 colleges use background checks frequently screening out these persons). Clean slate would allow these persons to be more able to support themselves, their families and their communities. It would result in a **decreased recidivism rate that makes me and my community safer**.

Since this issue disproportionately affects many Black and brown folks, passage of this bill will do its part in the push for racial justice. As a white person and a person of faith, this is very important to me and to the overall betterment of our society. I strongly encourage the Connecticut General Assembly's Judiciary Committee support Senate Bill No 1019.