

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 David A. Skog and I am a resident of Fairfield, Connecticut. **I support S.B. 1019** for the automatic erasure of criminal records. Mass incarceration has had real, ongoing consequences in Connecticut, disproportionately burdening hundreds of thousands of Connecticut residents with a criminal record. Records present barriers to employment, housing, occupational licensing, and higher education. **9 in 10 employers, 4 in 5 landlords, and 3 in 4 colleges** use background checks. Clean Slate will automatically expunge the records of people who have served their time, returned to our communities, and remained crime-free. A criminal record should not be a lifetime sentence.

Over 15 years ago, as a young man, I was arrested and incarcerated on drug possession charges. I have, since my release and completion of my debt to society, strived to move forward with my life and be a productive citizen. Many times I applied for a new job and passed through two or even three interviews and thought I was about to be hired, only to find my criminal record stopped my hiring. For many years I worked as a day laborer with my friend's company. There is no future in that type of work.

I ask you to support S.B. 1019 and help release me and thousands of other Connecticut residents from the "life time" sentence of a criminal record.

With S.B. 1019, 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.

Sincerely,

David A. Skog

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