

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 Rita E. Skog and I am a resident of Fairfield, CT. **I support S.B. 1019** for the automatic erasure of criminal records. Mass incarceration has had 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.

My son was arrested on a drug possession charge over 15 years ago. The experience changed his life in many ways, but one of the most negative aspects is how it changed his employment options. He had difficulty finding meaningful work and for many years was only able to work as a day laborer.

His criminal record follows him to this day and will follow him for as long as he lives. The only option for him to get out from under this "life time" sentence is to go through the extremely lengthy and expensive process of requesting a pardon from the state.

I am asking you to support the Clean Slate bill, S.B. No.1019 and free, from the weight of an old criminal record, the thousands of individuals who have paid their dues to society and strive to lead useful lives.

With sincere appreciation for your support,

Rita E. Skog

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