

Name: Gannon Long
Title: Hartford Resident
Organization or Agency:
Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed
NA

Testimony:

Thank you for considering my testimony. I am writing to support Ken Krayske for the position of Ombudsman - Correction for the State of CT.

As a Hartford resident, I've known Ken for about 20 years. He has been a journalist, activist, political organizer, and attorney. He's also a wonderful father and dedicated husband. Ken and I have a classic intertwined, small state relationship. In addition to marrying one of my high school friends, Ken studied law with my brother (a professor) at UConn years ago. Through all these years and different contexts, Ken has consistently expressed a moral clarity like few people I know. His commitment to protecting vulnerable people, and advocating for freedom from tyranny, have never wavered.

Ken is unafraid to speak truth to power, as DOC knows well. Appointing him would give credibility to this new role and to the department for residents in the state (myself included) who have serious reservations about how the state of CT treats incarcerated people. Ken has a clear sense of who is impacted, how to reach them, and how to move forward, that someone not well versed in his daily work, wouldn't offer.

As an attorney, Ken has made significant impact for vulnerable members of our society who are paying the consequences for the worst day of their life, in state custody. Ken advocated in the courts to ensure incarcerated people get medical treatment for curable diseases, a constitutional right that the state ignored until he raised the alarm. He also sued the state on behalf of an incarcerated woman forced to give birth shackled, in a jail cell toilet. In all cases, Ken alerts DOC to address these issues, before the lawsuit. Having someone like Ken in house would likely save the agency time, work, energy, and money. Had the state listened to Ken sooner on these two cases, the department could have addressed these civil rights issues sooner, more comprehensively - and without expensive, embarrassing lawsuits.

Thank you for considering Ken Krayske as a candidate for Ombudsman - Corrections. As someone who's known Ken for longer than either of us can probably believe, I wholeheartedly endorse his candidacy and encourage the legislature to appoint him to this role.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Gannon Long
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