

To: State of CT Correctional Advisory Committee
Subject: Correctional Ombudsman position
From: Polly C. Moran, Certified Nurse-Midwife, Hartford, CT

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony in support of Attorney Krayske for the position of Correctional Ombudsman. I fully support his nomination to this position because of his long record of advocacy for improving conditions for women in the prison system.

I am a Nurse-Midwife in the State of Connecticut and have long advocated legislation, protection, access, and equity when concerning women's health care and reproductive rights. I know personally of two areas that Attorney Krayske has positively impacted on women's health in the prison setting.

My first interaction with his work with incarcerated women was in York Prison when Attorney Krayske successfully represented Tiana Laboy, who gave birth in a Connecticut prison cell in February 2018. Finding the state at fault, this case helped raise public awareness of women's health issues in prison. His litigation strategy has been featured in law review articles. We continue to use this case as a measure of what can happen with minimal oversight and what type of healthcare access should be provided as a human's right issue.

He also led the important and impactful Hepatitis C class action suit, which forced the DOC to test more than 20,000 people and cure more than 1,000 people.

The idea of an Ombudsman is timely. These cases are important but it is not enough. As a healthcare provider, we know that prevention is one of the key elements to a healthy society. There are other pregnant women, other illnesses, other issues that will and do come up within the Department of Corrections. Litigation is not enough to improve the DOC. The position of Ombudsman can be proactive in identifying and solving problems before they become even worse. Attorney Krayske, with his knowledge of the system, his work as a lawyer, and his advocacy on these issues, demonstrate that he would be an excellent fit to provide oversight as Ombudsman.

With *West v. Manson*, the 1988 decision that set the minimum need for women's healthcare in prison, needs updating and enforcement. The Ombudsman should be a person with a demonstrated history of fighting for the rights of all people in the custody of the DOC, especially women. The ombudsman should be someone who can employ the law to improve conditions for people who are incarcerated. Attorney Krayske is uniquely qualified to fill this role.