

**Name:** Robert Nave

**Title:**

**Organization or Agency:**

**Topic:** Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

**Testimony:**

I am writing on behalf of Hilary Carpenter who is applying for the position of Corrections Ombuds. For this position, I believe that Hilary has all the necessary skills and proper temperament to fulfill the duties required for success.

I have known Hilary for almost 20 years. My relationship with her is professional and stems from our shared work in social justice. I was the Executive Director of the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty from 2001 to 2009. During that time the organization grew from a few people to a group of over 12,000 people and hundreds of organizations who pledged their support for death penalty abolition. For many of those years I served in that position, Hilary served as the second President of the Board of the Directors and helped oversee the massive growth of that organization.

With a topic such as capital punishment, clearly, emotions and points of view are strong and passionate. It was the job of the board president to make sure that the organization never lose sight of the goal of death penalty abolition. With her legal background, organizing skills, strong intuitive understanding of people, and her sharp mind, Hilary was able to lead the organization in a manner where common sense policy decisions with the best interest of the goal were always maintained. Considering the scope of people and organizations who supported abolition, it was like walking a high wire tight rope. We had at our table people and groups, who, if not together for the purpose of death penalty abolition, would be on opposite sides of the table arguing against each other. The skills Hilary displayed in helping to hold the group together while shaping policy that would lead to death penalty abolition, I believe, are the same skills she would need as a Prisoner Ombuds. While deep held beliefs of social justice, fair play, and humanity are always present in her work, she also understands the reality of people and the world. Walking that line between real and ideal is rather tough, but a trained intelligent mind, as Hilary possesses, has led her to be able to walk that line with absolute clarity. As a Prisoner Ombuds, I believe that Hilary will be able to represent the best interest of all parties involved while maintaining the integrity she has towards fair, proper, and proportional treatment of all people.

Therefore, it is with my full support, a great deal of pride for, and admiration of Hilary Carpenter, that I recommend her for the position of Prisoner Ombuds.