

Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 1070, An Act Concerning Prosecutorial Accountability

1. Start by addressing your testimony to committee leaders:

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

2. Include your name (if you aren't submitting anonymously), the town where you live, and the bill you're supporting:

My name is [First Name + Last Name], and I am a resident of [Town]. I am writing to testify in support of Senate Bill 1070, An Act Concerning Prosecutorial Accountability.

3. Explain how your personal values or experiences align with requiring prosecutorial accountability. Some suggested statements:

- I want to end mass incarceration in Connecticut, and we can't do that without holding prosecutors accountable for meeting that goal of ending mass incarceration .
- I think that people accused of a crime and survivors of crime should be treated fairly and equally no matter what their zip code is.
- I think that when a person is accused of a crime, their zip code shouldn't determine what kind of charges, plea bargains, or sentence recommendations they will get.
- Prosecutors hold people's lives and fates in their hands, and I think that with that enormous power should come even more oversight and transparency.

4. Include facts and data supporting prosecutorial accountability. Feel free to reference the ACLU of Connecticut's Prosecutorial Accountability Toolkit or use some of the information below:

- Because people convicted of crimes face hundreds of lifelong barriers to full participation in society, prosecutors make decisions that impact a person for the rest of their life, every day.
- There are significant differences in the way crimes are prosecuted in Connecticut. For example, people convicted of drug offenses are 2.4 times more likely to get prison sentences in certain parts of the state. We should be treating drug use as a public health, not criminal, issue, in all parts of the state.
- State's attorneys in Connecticut serve longer terms than state senators, state representatives, U.S. representatives, U.S. senators, the governor, the attorney general, and the chief state's attorney, but they have no regular external analysis of their judicial districts.

5. Conclude by asking the committee to support S.B. 1070, An Act Concerning Prosecutorial Accountability.