

Legislative Testimony 765 Asylum Avenue, 2nd Floor Hartford, CT 06105 860-523-9146 www.acluct.org

Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 6916, An Act Concerning the Correction Advisory Committee

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

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am writing to testify in support of House Bill 6916, An Act Concerning the Correction Advisory Committee.

The ACLU-CT is committed to ending mass incarceration in Connecticut and the systemically racist disparities inherent to it. As an organization that believes government transparency and accountability are imperative to a democracy and that fights for fair and equal justice for everyone in the criminal justice system, the ACLU-CT supports efforts to ensure that advisory boards and oversight committees are impartial from the government entities that they oversee. House Bill 6916 would ensure that any members of the Correction Advisory Committee who are employed by the Department of Correction while serving on the committee are nonvoting members. The ACLU-CT supports this bill, and urges this Committee to do the same.