



Legislative Testimony
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Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 6668, An Act Concerning a Study of Criminal Procedure Laws of this State, and Senate Bill 1091, An Act Concerning a Study of Criminal Laws of this State

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

My name is Kelly McConney Moore, and I am the interim senior policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am testifying in support of House Bill 6668, An Act Concerning a Study of Criminal Procedure Laws of this State, and Senate Bill 1091, An Act Concerning a Study of Criminal Laws of this State.

The ACLU-CT is an organization dedicated to ending mass incarceration and eliminating systemically racist disparities in the criminal legal system. One of the reasons that mass incarceration has proliferated over the past forty years is that there are more criminal laws on the books criminalizing a wider variety of behavior than has ever been criminalized before.¹ Reviewing these laws and removing duplicative, excessive, or outdated laws, or laws that we as a state no longer believe merit criminal punishment, is an important step to reducing the number of things a person can face incarceration for. Making sure our criminal law and procedure statutes are kept modern and reflect our current societal values – including an ever-growing recognition from people of all political beliefs that mass incarceration does is not effective² – is important work. We support House Bill 6668 and Senate Bill 1091,

¹ See, e.g., Charles G. Koch and Mark V. Holden, “The overcriminalization of America.” Politico, Jan. 7, 2015, available at <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/01/overcriminalization-of-america-113991/>.

² See *id.*

which prescribe those kinds of reviews and provide an important chance to modernize and prune our criminal statutes.

We encourage this Committee to consider amending the language of these bill slightly to ensure that formerly incarcerated people are represented in the bodies that will be conducting those reviews. People with lived experience have expertise that is incredibly valuable in determining which laws continue to serve the people of Connecticut and which should be phased out. We encourage this Committee to make that change in both House Bill 6668 and Senate Bill 1091, and to support both bills with that amendment.