



FIGHTING FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, LGBTQ RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE

Connecticut adopts first law in country requiring state prisons, jails to respect transgender people's identities

In February, a pregnant woman was forced to give birth in a prison cell, without medical help, at York Correctional Institution in Niantic. The ACLU-CT immediately condemned the situation and called for a state law to protect all pregnant incarcerated people's health, rights, and safety.

Three months later, the Connecticut General Assembly unanimously passed and Governor Malloy signed S.B. 13, a sweeping new law to safeguard the rights, health, and safety of cisgender women and transgender people who are incarcerated in Connecticut -- the first law in the country to require a state Department of Correction to treat transgender people who are incarcerated according to their gender identities.

Unanimous, bipartisan support for a bill doesn't happen overnight. S.B. 13's passage was an affirmation of the power of the formerly incarcerated women who saw it through.

As part of the ACLU-CT's Smart Justice program, women from across the state came together to speak truth to power in their push for S.B. 13. In meetings with lawmakers, at hearings, and in the press, they shared how Connecticut's lack of a law to prevent shackling of pregnant women jeopardized women's well being.



"When I asked a male correctional officer for feminine products, he told me to 'use my sock.' I ask that you please know how this treatment has impacted myself and the health, human rights, and dignity of many other incarcerated women."

- Alexandra Brown, member leader, ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut

They described how state restrictions on menstrual supplies available to incarcerated women meant that many were forced to go without. They stood with LGBTQ advocates who explained how Connecticut's lack of strong protections for transgender people who were incarcerated risked trans people's health and safety.

Because of these Smart Justice leaders, Connecticut law now: prevents the state from shackling incarcerated women during pregnancy or labor; requires the state to provide incarcerated women with sufficient menstrual supplies; ensures incarcerated women can perform bodily functions without non-medical staff of the opposite sex viewing their bodies; establishes support for pregnant and postpartum incarcerated women; enhances training for correctional staff; and requires the state to treat transgender people who are incarcerated according to their gender identities, including by placing them in facilities that match their gender identities.

Connecticut still has a long way to go toward respecting all incarcerated people's human rights, dignity, health, and Constitutional rights, but S.B. 13 is a step in the right direction. The ACLU-CT will continue to advocate for an end to mass incarceration and the elimination of all cruel conditions of confinement for all people who are incarcerated in our state.



"Our state should treat all women and transgender people, no matter where they are, with dignity, respect, and fairness."

- Sandy LoMonico, criminal justice organizer, ACLU of Connecticut



"Why do we need this S.B. 13? Because we are human. We are human, and we need to be treated as such."

- Tiheba Williams-Bain, founder, The New Freedom Fighters: Women Against Mass Incarceration and member leader, ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut



"There is no dignity in shackling women during labor. No dignity in lack of prenatal care. No dignity in taking away feminine hygiene products and re-victimizing women through strip searches. There is a call for Connecticut lawmakers to act now."

- Jenevieve Ashman Johnson, member leader, ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut

SUPPORTER SURVEY RESULTS

In February, we emailed our supporters to ask you to take a survey to help us in our work for a freer and fairer Constitution State. If you completed the survey, thank you! From that survey, we learned that ACLU-CT supporters like you:

- Are here because you support the ACLU-CT's work to combat discrimination, stop the targeting of vulnerable communities, and stand up against government overreach and authoritarianism.
- Recognize that **"When civil liberties die, America dies."**
- Believe that **criminal justice reform, police accountability, and immigrants' rights** are the three most important civil liberties issues facing Connecticut.
- See the importance of the ACLU's **nationwide network** for fighting back against threats and advancing freedom, justice, and equality, here in Connecticut and throughout the country.

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THANK YOU for joining us in the fight for liberty, justice, and equality in Connecticut. You make progress possible.

SMART JUSTICE CONNECTICUT

ACLU-CT joins new nationwide effort to end mass incarceration

Imprisonment is a brutal and costly response to crime that traumatizes incarcerated people and hurts families, communities, and economies. Connecticut has made progress on ending mass incarceration, but we still have work to do. Every day, incarceration harms people in our state: Connecticut imprisons 334% more people than it did in 1968, an increase that far outpaces population growth and crime. Too often, fair treatment in the justice system still depends on how much money you have or the color of your skin: racial disparities in Connecticut's prisons and jails are among the worst in the country.

It is time to turbocharge the effort to end mass incarceration in the Constitution State.

Enter ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut. This new initiative, part of a nationwide effort in all 50 states, seeks to cut Connecticut's prison and jail population by 50% and end racial disparities in the state's justice system. We are working in the streets, on the campaign trail, in the legislature, and in the courts to create a justice system that prioritizes people, not prisons.

ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut is led by and for an unprecedented cohort of formerly incarcerated people who are working together to usher in a new era for justice. These leaders are speaking truth to power, sharing their expertise, and building connections across the state.

This summer, these leaders will hit the campaign trail to educate gubernatorial candidates about why the next Governor of Connecticut must prioritize ending mass incarceration. We are asking every viable candidate for governor to complete our questionnaire about their positions on criminal justice, so voters will have a clear picture of where candidates stand on issues like racism in the justice system, investing in programs to rehabilitate people and prevent crime, and transparency and accountability for prosecutors. We will also be asking candidates to embrace criminal justice reform as a pathway toward a better Connecticut.

When Connecticut voters elect a new governor in November, ACLU

PUSHING BACK AGAINST MASS SURVEILLANCE



In December, the Hartford City Council gave the go-ahead for the city to apply for a \$2.5 million "quality of life" grant. The city has chosen to spend most of that money on a massive police surveillance network without community controls. There are no Hartford city ordinances to govern how police use this network, which will include surveillance in people's pockets (social media surveillance software), from the sky (drones), and from the street (hundreds of cameras on traffic lights, businesses, homes, and more).

Without any rules created by and for the people of Hartford, this surveillance center has massive potential to undermine people's rights, exacerbate racial disparities in policing, and fuel the federal government's profiling of Black Lives Matter activists and undocumented immigrants. Hartford residents should get to decide what surveillance tools police use, how police use those tools, how police store the information they collect, and who they share that information with. Joined by city residents, advocates, immigrants' rights organizers, and more, the ACLU-CT is pushing back to demand community control over the Hartford Police Department's spying. We will keep advocating to make sure that in Hartford, the people get to decide what policing looks like, not the other way around.

ACLU-CT: MOMENTS FROM THE LAST 50 YEARS OF FIGHTING TO END MASS INCARCERATION

Bolling v Manson ends denial of "good time" credits to people facing indefinite sentences at Cheshire Correctional Institution

1967

Challenged "manifest danger" law that allowed state to involuntarily commit young women for "vice"

1972

Villafone v Manson strikes down discriminatory jury selection practices

1981

Class action lawsuit upholds right to speedy trial. Nearly 200 people, including protesters, had been held for more than one year without trial.

1980

Settlement in Rivera v Rowland, challenging insufficient funding of public defender system

1999

Last ACLU-CT lawsuit challenging the death penalty before legislative repeal. ACLU-CT lawyers had been suing to end it since 1972.

2005

Legislative repeal of the death penalty

2012

Second Chance Society law passed

2015

ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut formed

2018



SIGN THE PETITION

Do you share our vision for a new era of justice in Connecticut? Add your name to stand with Smart Justice leaders:

www.acluct.org/smartjustice

Smart Justice Connecticut will demand that person implement a Smart Justice platform in the crucial first 100 days of their administration -- and in the years to come. In 2019 and beyond, ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut will be pushing for policies to end:

- extreme sentencing
- unfair prosecutorial practices and lack of prosecutorial oversight and accountability
- broken parole
- barriers to reentry
- discriminatory police practices

While Smart Justice is led by a special group of formerly incarcerated people, we will need everyone to show up for smarter justice policies.

Your voice, as an ACLU of Connecticut supporter, will be crucial as we start educating candidates and voters about ending mass incarceration. Make sure you are signed up for the ACLU of Connecticut's email list so you will receive updates on our progress and be the first to know about opportunities to take action.

TWELVE CIVIL LIBERTIES BILLS PASS

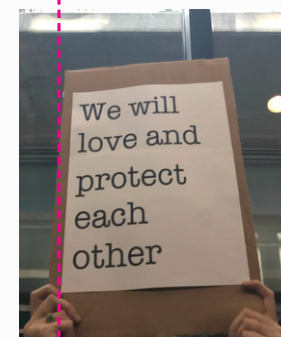
Connecticut's 2018 legislative session ended on May 9. This year, the ACLU-CT testified on more than 80 bills — some good proposals, some bad, and some in between. Each step of the way, ACLU-CT supporters were also taking action by emailing and calling their legislators to advocate for progress.

In the end, ACLU-CT advocates helped to push the Connecticut General Assembly to pass 12 civil liberties bills for criminal justice reform, police accountability, reproductive freedom, LGBTQ rights, immigrants' rights, racial justice, students' rights, and more.

One bill modernizes an outdated law that prevented pregnant people from exercising their rights to bodily autonomy through living wills. Another allows drivers in Connecticut, like motorists in 48 other states, to use electronic proof of car insurance. Others require the state to examine its lack of protections for students' privacy rights and to take a hard look at police body camera policies. And others protect insurance coverage for essential healthcare like contraception, overhaul Connecticut's discriminatory and over-used special parole system, and ensure equal access to financial aid at state colleges and universities for undocumented students.

Unfortunately, bills to protect Net Neutrality, advance voting rights, protect immigrants from unnecessary involvement with ICE, and more did not pass this year. Some elected officials still want to take Connecticut backward on civil liberties. We have much more work to do, and we are ready. For a full wrap-up of the 2018 legislative session, visit our website: www.acluct.org.

SEVEN JUSTICE THREATS DEFEATED

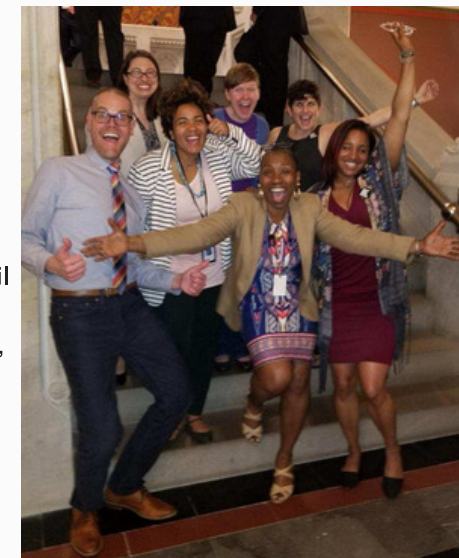


When some legislators began 2018 by announcing plans to roll back criminal justice reforms, we immediately called out their proposals as unjust, unwise, and cruel attempts to take our state backward. Together with our allies, we fended off seven bills that would have threatened justice and hurt families and communities in our state.

One cruel and unnecessary proposal would have criminalized children who were in crisis by allowing the state to imprison them instead of finding them safe shelter. That bill also would have allowed the state to imprison youth as young as 14 years old in adult facilities and tied judges' hands by requiring them to automatically send certain youth into the adult court and jail systems.

Three bills each attempted to undermine Connecticut's earned risk reduction credit program. Earned risk reduction credits, also known as "good time credits," provide people with the chance to reduce their time in prison in exchange for participating in rehabilitation programs and demonstrating rehabilitation in prison. These bills would have taken away a ray of hope for incarcerated people, increased prison costs, and undermined people's chances of successfully reentering their communities.

Threats to civil liberties are not just national issues: they exist in Connecticut, and they are not going away. With our supporters' help, we are ready to keep fighting back.



With Representatives Robyn Porter and Jeff Currey, advocates from the ACLU-CT, Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut, and the Commission on Equity and Opportunity celebrate the passage of S.B. 13, a bill to improve treatment of incarcerated people.

12 BILLS FOR PROGRESS IN CONNECTICUT



FAIR TREATMENT OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE



RACIAL & ETHNIC IMPACT STATEMENTS



LIVING WILLS FOR PREGNANT PEOPLE



#AFFORDTODREAM



SPECIAL PAROLE OVERHAUL



STUDENT PRIVACY TASK FORCE



CLOSING GAP IN SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS PROTECTIONS



ELECTRONIC PROOF OF CAR INSURANCE



CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE



PAY EQUITY



RIGHT TO NEW TRIAL FOR PEOPLE CONVICTED BASED ON JUNK SCIENCE



POLICE BODY CAMERA POLICY TASK FORCE