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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Honorable Joseph M. Shortall,
The Connecticut Sentencing Commission
450 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106
24 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

June 26, 2012

Dear Judge Shortall,

We appreciate the thorough and diligent efforts of the Sentencing Commission over the last year and we encourage you to continue your work, in particular on the items that you have brought before us last legislative session. One of the items that we were interested in is the juvenile sentence modification proposal. The proposal established certain grounds to allow a sentencing court to modify the imprisonment sentence of an individual who committed a crime as a juvenile. We realize that the commission has worked to reach an agreement on this proposal, and we would like to encourage you to continue to examine this issue.

There are many other potential areas to explore, one of which has to do with the "drug free zone" offenses. As you know, these offenses involve the sale or possession of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia within 1,500 feet of a (1) licensed child day care center, (2) public or private elementary or secondary school, or (3) public housing project. The effectiveness of these laws and how they are applied has been raised repeatedly year after year, and it may be an area the commission could explore.

Again, we thank you for your continued leadership with the Connecticut Sentencing Commission. We see a lot of potential for the Commission in areas of sentencing data collection and analysis to ensure that policy-decision is rooted in empirical analysis. A strong and successful commission would only reinforce our state's goal of providing public safety while holding the offender accountable to the community.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Eric D. Coleman.

Eric D. Coleman
State Senator, 2nd District

Handwritten signature of Gerald Fox, III.

Gerald Fox, III
State Representative, 146th District