



State of Connecticut

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel Office of Chief Public Defender

Raised Bill No. 846

An Act Decreasing Recidivism and Promoting Responsible Reintegration

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - March 22, 2013

The Office of Chief Public Defender advocates support for **Section 4** of *Raised Bill No. 846, An Act Decreasing Recidivism and Promoting Responsible Reintegration* which directly impacts clients who seek a compassionate parole release. The proposed language would amend C.G.S. §55-131k to permit the Board of Pardons and Parole to grant a person a compassionate parole release if the person is:

“. . . so physically or mentally debilitated, incapacitated or infirm as a result of advanced age or as a result of a condition, disease or syndrome that is not terminal as to be physically incapable of presenting a danger to society”.

The proposal does not require a compassionate parole release but permits the Board the discretion to grant release if satisfied that certain criteria exist. Passage of **Section 4** would afford those persons who are so “physically or mentally debilitated, incapacitated or infirm” and who pose no threat to society the opportunity to seek release. A person applying for such release would at least have the opportunity to present the Board with information pertaining to their current physical or mental condition which was not necessarily in existence or even foreseen at the time the person was initially sentenced.

Permitting a person this compassionate release would, permit that person the opportunity to spend the remainder of their lives with their families. This office, therefore, supports the language as contained in **Section 4** and urges adoption.