



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2281

Testimony in Support of House Bill 6921: An Act Concerning Discrimination Based on a Person's Criminal History

**Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ**

March 5, 2019

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ and I am writing today in support of H.B.6921 An Act Concerning Discrimination Based on a Person's Criminal History, to prohibit discrimination based on a person's criminal history.

I am writing on behalf of the 233 congregations and more than 67,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. In 2014 the assembled delegates and ministers of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ met and voted on a Resolution that calls upon the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ to call for an end to Mass Incarceration for Non-Violent Offenses, to advocate for passage of legislation that promotes alternatives to mass incarceration, and to support racial and economic justice in criminal sentencing and restorative justice principles in all possible circumstances.

Connecticut residents with a criminal record, including those returning home from incarceration, on parole, and on probation face challenges as they search for jobs and housing, apply for insurance and credit and attempt to participate in public programs. People returning home in Connecticut after incarceration face hundreds of legal barriers to supporting themselves and their families.

All of God's children deserve a second chance and an opportunity to work, obtain housing, insurance and participate in public programs and services. People living with a criminal record should have a fair chance to get their lives on track. H.B. 6921 will help Connecticut residents obtain these necessities.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of H. B. 6921.

Blessings,
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God is still speaking,

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