



# Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

*Hartford Office - 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105  
Framingham Office - 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702*

## **Testimony in Support of House Bill 5122: An Act Considering Consideration of Criminal Convictions of a Prospective Tenant; Support for House Bill 5129: An Act Concerning a Transition Program for Incarcerated Persons being Released from Prison and Support for Senate Bill 105: An Act Establishing a Right to Housing**

**Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate  
Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ  
February 18, 2020**

Senator Anwar, Representative McGee, and distinguished members of the Housing Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ and I am writing today in support of House Bill 5122: An Act Considering Consideration of Criminal Convictions of a Prospective Tenant; Support for House Bill 5129: An Act Concerning a Transition Program for Incarcerated Persons being Released from Prison and Support for Senate Bill 105: An Act Establishing a Right to Housing

I am writing on behalf of the 614 congregations and more than 120,000 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 historic Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ met and voted on a Resolution that called 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. House Bill 5122 and House Bill 5129 will help Connecticut residents obtain these necessities.

Also, we support everyone having access to affordable, quality housing. All of God's children should have access to affordable housing and Senate Bill 105 will help us get there.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of these important Bills.

Blessings,  
Michele Mudrick  
(860) 796-3822  
Mudrickm@sneucc.org



*Hartford Phone: 860-233-5564 Fax: 860-231-8111  
Framingham Phone: 508-875-5233 Fax: 508-875-5485*

[www.sneucc.org](http://www.sneucc.org)



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