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RE: LD 178 - An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community

Good morning,

Personally, and professionally, I have experience dealing with parole in CT & NY due to family members participating in it. My brother-in-law was sentenced to 16 years for armed robbery, he served 6 years in prison and 10 years on special parole. Parole helped him be successful reintegrating into society by providing programs to get housing, employment, and education. I believe with the right systems of support parole can help individuals be successful re-entering society.

Because of parole my brother-in-law was able to complete his sentence while being a positive community member, he maintained 2 jobs so he could financially support his family. His time in society saved taxpayers money by reducing the cost of a person incarcerated as well as removing 1 adult and 3 children from state and federal programs like SNAP and section 8. More importantly, this family was able to be reunified allowing a young man and 2 young ladies have their mother and father active in their life.

As an HR professional I can tell you recruiting over the last 5 years has been difficult and continues to remain a struggle as there are less and less employable people in society. Allowing individuals, the opportunity to become paroled will add more employable people into their communities to work. These individuals can pay taxes and fill so many of those open position's businesses are struggling to fill.

Recidivism happens far too often because when an individual is released the system leaves the individual to figure things out on their own with very little support or services. Parole can reduce recidivism but more importantly also reduce the trauma to children that is caused by incarceration. Studies show that when parents are incarcerated it affects not just the person incarcerated but their family but more importantly their children.

If you would like to learn more about parole from an HR level and/or speak with someone who has participated in parole, please feel free to let me know. I will be more than happy to set up a meeting with individuals who have successfully participated in parole in NY and CT.

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