

My name is Sky Thompson,

I am writing to encourage those empowered to enthusiastically support the Right To Counsel bill being debated by this body.. Every person facing eviction in the state of Connecticut ought to be given representation, and the fact such representation isn't already guaranteed is obscene. My personal story around this issue is complicated... I won't bury the lead however: On July 29th of 2020, my brother Jerry Thompson killed a man named Victor King, who apparently was his landlord. The murder was the tragic result of a dispute about rent...

First let me say for the record, I and my family are very sorry for the loss the King family had to endure because of my brother's violent actions, I can't imagine the pain such a senseless crime must have caused their family. My brother was mentally ill, and had been struggling with the consequences of being mentally fragile in a pitiless society his whole life. I do not know my brother terribly well, but what I do know is the intersection between race, incarceration, mental illness and a materialistic society lacking meaningful social safety nets for marginalized and struggling citizens has been condemned by many because of the predictable violence that so often erupts from the confluence of such narrative forces...

The mismanagement that has been the federal and state response to the Coronavirus pandemic has changed this country for the worse in numerous ways.. Many workers like me have lost wages, many workers like me can no longer afford to attend classes.. Additionally challenges arise in marriages and families as aspiration must contend with unfair austerity, and resource allocation brought about by callous state representatives..

The mismanagement and austerity resulting from negligent and craven public officials prioritizing their own wealth or convenience over public health has made this country a more precarious place... a more violent place... We have seen many examples of such violence as madness and riotous indignation alike swept the country in the summer of 2020.. Doubling down on punitive approaches to poverty, especially as many in this economy are driven to deeper extremes of deprivation through no fault of their own, is its own kind of madness.

I implore those assembled here to learn from my brother's tragic story and make a decision to bolster public sanity.. Evictions in this time of pandemic is not a practice we want to continue especially without thoroughly hearing out suffering citizens.. Please vote to make Right To Counsel a law in the state of Connecticut.