

TESTIMONY OF Andrew Clark, IMRP at CCSU

Judiciary Committee SB 987

AN ACT CONCERNING REINVESTMENT OF SAVINGS ACHIEVED THROUGH A REDUCTION IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY POPULATION INTO REENTRY AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.

Good evening Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, Senator Kissel, Representative Fishbein, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Andrew Clark and I am here to support the concept of Justice Reinvestment as outlined in SB987. It was nearly 20 years ago in this very committee that Connecticut began its bipartisan journey towards Justice Reinvestment— one grounded in the belief that our state could realize both a decreased prison population and increased public safety. At that time it was Raised Bill 5211 – An Act Concerning Prison Overcrowding, and with its final passage Connecticut not only became the first state in the nation to commit to such a concept, but has led the way in thoughtful and meaningful justice reform ever since. And the results of this work are clear: a prison population nearly half of that in 2004 and crime rates at 60-year lows.

And yet there is still work to be done. The one promise of Justice Reinvestment that Connecticut has never truly realized is that of reinvesting savings in the very communities most impacted by incarceration in the first place. In that first year of implementation, the legislature used savings from the termination of a \$11 million per year contract for up to 500 out of state prisoners in Wallens Ridge State Prison in Virginia to reinvest in re-entry services – much of which went to state agencies to administer. Also, in that bill was the creation of the requirement for a statewide reentry strategy – again to be produced by state agencies. For a multitude of reasons, the momentum in these early provisions did not bear out to a full realization of the promise of reinvestment – that of further reducing recidivism, creating even greater public safety and making individuals and communities most impacted by the justice system more whole.

The spirit of this type of reinvestment is once again outlined, this time in SB 987. The various services and sectors of society that are targeted for reinvestment are laudable and supported by the vast research on what works to support prisoner reentry. To learn from the past, I would strongly encourage the consideration of a corresponding, and no less transformative, systems change to support the reinvestment to ensure the spirit of these reinvestments are supported over time. This systems change would transfer a significant portion of the ownership of community reintegration to the very places that are most invested in its success – the communities and individuals most impacted. It would continue Connecticut on the path of disinvesting in reactive, wasteful systems and shifting these resources to the very things that ensure a peaceable society – education, health, housing, employment and transportation.

Over the last few months, I have been part of a research team composed of experts from the University Network for Human Rights and the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy. With assistance from undergraduates at Brown University, the University of Connecticut, the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, and Wesleyan, our team has written and submitted to you today a recent white paper entitled “Connecticut at the Crossroads: COVID-19, the State Budget Crisis and the Path Towards Decarceration,

Public Safety and Community Investment.” I have incorporated the paper in latter part of my testimony. It can also be found at <https://www.humanrightsnetwork.org/ct-prisons>.

This 105-page document assesses possible paths forward for criminal justice in Connecticut – including that of Justice Reinvestment. Based on evaluation of case-studies of best practices and novel quantitative research, the report recommends that Connecticut move further and more substantively away from the costly and ineffective infrastructure of mass incarceration. We contend that the state must move aggressively toward meaningful systems change by embracing human rights and international standards of justice by instituting justice reinvestment and creating and enhancing educational, vocational, and health programs for incarcerated people. In all these measures, we urge state agencies to increase community stakeholder involvement in criminal justice reform. Only in doing this will Connecticut continue on its path of reducing its prison population, ensuring public safety and making communities whole that have been devastated by mass incarceration.

The recommendations in our paper have received widespread support from directly affected individuals, policy experts, and community members. Nearly 300 stakeholders have signed onto the letter that we present calling for justice reinvestment, increased decarceration, and respect for human rights norms within Connecticut prisons. Among the signatories are concerned citizens, clergy members, college students, and expert professors from Yale University, the University of Connecticut, Wesleyan University, the University of Hartford, Western Connecticut State, and Central Connecticut State Universities. We have also received an outpouring of community support from two dozen leading advocacy organizations and direct services providers. The letter and its signatories are also listed below.

Nearly two full decades ago Connecticut embarked on a journey entitled Justice Reinvestment. With the assistance of the Council of State Governments, the state passed the first such piece of legislation in the nation: <https://csgjusticecenter.org/projects/justice-reinvestment/past-states/connecticut/> The release of the white paper outlining this bold new initiative was brought forth in a 2003 conference held at Central Connecticut State University and co-hosted by then Appropriations Committee Chair, Bill Dyson. Just this past month, we hosted virtual Building Bridges 2021: Connecticut at a Crossroads (<https://www.ccsu.edu/imrp/> and <http://ctreentry.org/>). The white paper referenced above was front and center at this event, as was Bill Dyson and many of the advocates who have supported Connecticut’s road towards a safer community, coupled with a dismantling of hyper-incarceration.

Many said in 2003 that Connecticut could never achieve such lofty goals as reducing our prison population and achieving greater public safety. We stand here today as the first state in the nation to have cut its prison population in half, while also experiencing the lowest crime rates our state has seen since the 1960s. We urge you to again listen to these voices as Connecticut stands at a crossroads of finally shaking off the shackles of a misguided justice policy that resulted in the wholesale waste of resources and human potential. It won’t be accomplished by anything less than bold action and a vision of what can and should be. This white paper outlines such a strategy and the authors and those who support it stand willing to assist you in ensuring Connecticut stands as a beacon of light across the nation, again showing states the way forward to a more just, more humane future that benefits all its citizens.

Dear Connecticut Legislator,

We, the undersigned, write now to support proposals to reduce the use of incarceration in the state's criminal justice system and to reinvest resources from prison and jail funding into community-driven reentry initiatives and programs. We understand that the State General Assembly will begin the appropriations process during the 2021 legislative session. We recognize that due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the state faces difficult budgetary tradeoffs and decisions. In this context, we urge you to consider the following proposals:

- reduce spending on prisons and the related infrastructure and personnel involved in incarceration. This should not be understood as support for measures that seek to reduce per capita spending in the prison system but rather as support for reducing the number of those incarcerated;
- prioritize investments in communities directly affected by criminal enforcement;
- make detention, when necessary, more humane;
- provide greater educational and employment training to those incarcerated; and
- invest in community-led reentry programs and initiatives.

In this regard, we have reviewed the analysis and recommendations contained in the document "Connecticut at the Crossroads: COVID-19, the State Budget Crisis and the Path Towards Decarceration, Public Safety and Community Investment." The document is the result of research and analysis by experts at the University Network for Human Rights, based on campus at Wesleyan University in Middletown, and the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders.

We urge you to carefully review the proposals and supporting information and analysis in the document as you decide how best to invest the resources entrusted to you by the people of Connecticut. We, the undersigned, are available to assist you and to provide further information during your work.

With our appreciation and wishes for a successful legislative session.

Signed,

*** Institutional affiliation for identity only ***

- César Abadía, Associate Professor, University of Connecticut
- Samuel Aber, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Frederick L Altice MD, Professor of Medicine and Public Health, Yale University
- Nana Amos Program Manager, Dodd Human Rights Impact, UConn
- Karen Anderson, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School

- Sophia Angelis, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Stephen Angle, Director, Fries Center for Global Studies and Professor of Philosophy, Wesleyan University
- Rani Arbo, Campus and Community Engagement Manager, Wesleyan University Center for the Arts
- Michael Askew Connecticut Center for Addiction Recovery
- Victoria Baena, PhD candidate, Yale University
- Atticus Ballesteros, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Camila Bustos, Associate in Human Rights Practice, University Network for Human Rights and J.D. Candidate , Yale Law School
- Jorge Camacho, Policing, Law, and Policy Director, The Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School
- Natalie Savoie Cauley, Yale Law School
- James Cavallaro, former President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Kami Choi, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Andrew Clark, Director, Institute for Municipal and Regional Planning, Central Connecticut State University
- Alhaji Conteh, Africana Studies Institute, University of Connecticut
- Justin Cole, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Dawn Crimmins Social Worker - juvenile justice
- Eshan Dabak, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Michael Daly, Returning Citizen
- Mayur Desai, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Yale School of Public Health
- Barry Diamond Executive Director, Reentry Survivors LLC
- Sarah Diamond Diamond Research Consulting
- Amelia Dunnell, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Ellen Edens, Associate Professor, Yale School of Medicine

- Gidgit Farinha Job Developer, Community Solutions Inc.
- Sarah Fox Director of Policy, CT Coalition to End Homelessness
- Gerald Friedland, MD, Professor emeritus , Yale School of Medicine and Public Health
- Nancy Gartley Ticket to Work Navigator/Human Services Case Manager
- Julia Geiger, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Christopher Gohl, Weltethos Institute, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen
- Jonathan Goldman Executive Director of the Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice
- TJ Grayson, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Camila Gripp, Senior Research Associate, The Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School
- Alice Hadler, Senior Associate Director of the Fries Center for Global Studies and Associate Dean of International Student Affairs, Wesleyan University
- Jim Hadler, Clinical Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale School of Public Health
- Max Hadler, Concerned CT native
- Katharina von Hammerstein, Professor, University of Connecticut
- John Hamilton CEO, Liberation Programs
- Scott Harding, Associate Professor, University of Connecticut
- Anthony Ryan Hatch, Associate Professor of Science in Society, Wesleyan University
- Megan Hauptman, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Rob Hebert Bridgeport Reentry Collaborative Co-Chair
- Robert Heimer, Professor of Epidemiology and of Pharmacology, Yale University
- Beth Hines Executive Director, Community Partners in Action
- Fred Hodges Director of Community of Affairs, Family Reentry
- Liz Jacob, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Carol Jones, Director of Harm Reduction, Alliance for Living
- Brendan Kane, Associate Professor, History, University of Connecticut; Director, Democracy and

Dialogues Initiative

- Marilyn Kain Adjunct Professor, Western CT State University
- Kerwin Kaye, Assoc. Professor of Sociology, Wesleyan University
- Matt Kellner, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Aileen Keays Program Manager, CT Children with Incarcerated Parents Initiative
- Dorothee Kimmich, Professor, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen
- Renee LeMark, Senior Policy and Research Analyst, Central Connecticut State University
- Mishy Lesser, Upstander Project, Education Fellow, Dodd Human Rights Impact
- Faith Lewis, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- J. Kehaulani Kauanui, Professor of American Studies, Wesleyan University
- Kaveh Khoshnood Associate Professor, Yale School of Public Health
- Makaela Kingsley, Director of the Patricelli Center for Social Entrepreneurship, Wesleyan University
- Adam Kinkley, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Jennifer Kleindienst, Director of Sustainability, Wesleyan University
- Samuel Kuhn, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Barbara Kuryluk Dept. Head Outpatient Services Recovery Network of Programs
- Basak Kus, Associate Professor of Government, Wesleyan University
- Sophie Laing, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Molly Land Professor of Law and Human Rights, University of Connecticut
- Tobias Lebens PhD candidate, Universität Tübingen
- Angie Liao, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Kathryn Libal, Director, Human Rights Institute and Associate Professor of Social Work and Human Rights, University of Connecticut
- Line Lillevik, Program Director, MA/MSc Program in International & World History, Columbia University

- Patrick Liu, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Juan Luna, Yale Law School
- Claudia Kahindi, Law student, University of Oxford
- Aileen Keays Program Manager, CT Children with Incarcerated Parents Initiative
- Wendy Kraus-Heitmann
- Elizabeth Magenheimer, Fair Haven Health Care
- Eliza Mahoney Concerned CT native
- Logan Malach J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Nadejda Marques, Postdoctoral Fellow at CES University of Coimbra
- Francesca Maviglia, Yale School of Public Health
- Jaimie Meyer Associate Professor, Yale School of Medicine
- Bud McAllister President/ Founder Partners in Healthy Communities
- Dae Muhammad McKnight Reentry coordinator/ Fatherhood Engagement specialist Family Reentry
- Verla Michel Bridgeport AIC Director, Community Solutions, Inc.
- Glenn Mitoma, Director, Dodd Human Rights Impact and Assistant Professor of Human Rights and Education, University of Connecticut
- Samuel Moyn, Henry Luce Professor of Jurisprudence, Yale Law School
- Ruhan Nagra, Supervisor in Human Rights Practice, University Network for Human Rights
- Ernest E. Newton II Returning Citizen Navigator, Careerresources
- Andrew Ntim, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Katharine A. Owens, Director, University Interdisciplinary Studies and Professor, Department of Politics, Economics, and International Studies, University of Hartford
- Eli Pales, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Joshua Petersen, Research and Development Officer, University Network for Human Rights
- Aris Prince J.D. Candidate, UCLA School of Law

- Amir Abdur Rahman Invictus Program Mentor, Domus Kids Inc.
- Alex Rains, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
- Mack Ramsden, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Susan Randolph, Associate Professor Emeritas, Human Rights Measurement Initiative Co- founder & Economic and Social Rights Lead
- Jennifer Rose, Professor of the Practice, Wesleyan University
- Peter Rutland, Professor of Government, Wesleyan University
- Caroline Sarnoff, Executive Director, Justice Collaboratory, Yale Law School
- Albert Scherr (Prof. Dr.), University of Education, Freiburg/Germany
- Sidney Schnoll, Pinney Associates
- Florian Schmidt, Tübingen University, Germany
- Amy Schoenecker, Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Economics & International Studies, University of Hartford
- Dick Sederquist CT DOC Volunteer, TRUE Unit
- Bilal Dabir Sekou, Associate Professor Political Science, University of Hartford
- Theresa A. Severance Professor, Eastern Connecticut State University
- Aasha Shaik, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Sandra L. Sirota Post-doctoral Fellow, Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut
- Lexi Smith, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Jake Skrzypiec, Education Fellow, Dodd Human Rights Impact, University of Connecticut; Steering Board Member, CT Human Rights Partnership
- Sandra A. Springer, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Yale School of Medicine
- John Stewart, Associate Professor, emeritus
- Rachel Talamo, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Jeanette M. Tetrault, MD rofessor of Medicine, Yale School of Medicine
- Josh Therriault Video producer, Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy

- Antonia Thompson Stamford Youth Services Bureau, Project Coordinator- Restorative Justice Project
- Lynne Tirrell, Associate Professor, University of Connecticut
- Kelly Thompson, CEO, Alliance for Living
- Sten H. Vermund, Dean, Yale School of Public Health
- David Vlahov, Professor of Nursing, Yale University
- Ramis Wadood, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Michael Walton Sr., Reverend
- Caira Ward The Rowan Center
- Christine Weber Root Center for Advanced Recovery
- Friedemann Weidauer, Professor, University of Connecticut
- Uwe Wenzel, Director, Mark Twain Center for Transatlantic Relations, Heidelberg, Germany
- Alisa White, J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School
- Rev. Dr. Sandra Wiens Director Prison/Reentry Ministry, First Congregational Church, Guilford, CT
- Richard A. Wilson, Associate Dean, University of Connecticut School of Law
- Sarah Willen, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director, Research Program on Global Health & Human Rights at the Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut
- Sebastian Wogenstein, Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Connecticut/Baden-Württemberg Human Rights Research Consortium, University of Connecticut
- Barry Woods, Director of Outreach & Young Adult Programming/ Stamford Boys and Girls Club
- Maggie Young Liberation Programs, Inc.
- Magdalena Zapędowska, Visiting Professor and Asst. Director of Fellowships, Wesleyan University

Undergraduate Students

- Tracy Cui, Wesleyan University
- Jesse de la Bastide, Wesleyan University

- Andrew Simard, Wesleyan University
- Simon Gaughan, Wesleyan University
- Sydney Elkhay, University of Connecticut
- Ifeoma Anyoku, Brown University
- Christian Nesfield, The New School
- Jocelyn Cedeno, Middlebury College
- Mara Cavallaro, Brown University
- Angelo Andrade, Brown University
- Amber Hedquist, Florida State University
- Andrew Kushnir, Wesleyan University
- Youngeun Lee, Brown University
- Kris Cho, Brown University
- Zanagee Artis, Brown University
- Mackenzie Goodwin, Plymouth State University
- Katarina Mongiardo, Wesleyan University
- Kayla Koroma, Cornell University
- Evan Dong, Brown University
- Julia Peabody-Harhigh, Williams College
- Morgan Evans, Brown University
- Angelo Andrade, Brown University
- Alexander Tin, Brown University
- Nicole Allina, Wesleyan University
- Sharothy Mahmud, Barnard College
- Jai'el Toussaint, Brown University

- Daniel Kraft, Wesleyan University
- Kenneth Morris, University of California
- Lillian Hua, Yale University
- Yael Yossefy, Wesleyan University
- Sarah Weiner, University of Toronto
- Jakob Travis, University of California
- Malak Afaneh, Pomona College
- Malique Bodie, Brown University
- Helena Ware, Yale University
- Jakob Travis, UCSB
- Eric Bullock
- Wesley Babbitt, UCSB
- Kaven Konda, CSU
- Carson Kile, University of California
- Sydney Young, Harvard University
- Ricky Gutierrez, Boise State University
- Tess Solot-Kehl, Wesleyan University
- Thea Ranelli, Wesleyan University
- Jenny Margolis, Wesleyan University
- Annie Wendorf, Wesleyan University
- Caitlin Kollins, Kenyon College
- Margot Bickler, Macalester College
- Emily Tamkin, Bates College
- Marco Bragado, Wesleyan University

- Eliza Zaroff, Wesleyan University
- Cassidy McDonough, Wesleyan University
- Luisana Guerrero, Brown University
- Luis Martínez, Vanderbilt University
- Madelynn Roche, Vanderbilt University
- Luis Perez, Wesleyan University
- Emily Shiroff, Vanderbilt University
- Nilai Vemula, Vanderbilt University
- Roman Bacchetta, Vanderbilt University
- Sunil Shenoy, Vanderbilt University
- Zahra Biabani, Vanderbilt University
- Shun Ahmed, Vanderbilt University
- Rashmi Jha, Vanderbilt University
- Brannen Dickson, Vanderbilt University
- Hermela Gebremariam, Vanderbilt University
- Kaitlyn Williams, Vanderbilt University
- Teresa Xu, Vanderbilt University
- Rohit Kataria, Vanderbilt University
- Gabrielle Guarna, Vanderbilt University
- Caroline Wilkerson, Vanderbilt University
- Aaron Goldman, Wesleyan University
- Samyukta Yenamandra, Vanderbilt University
- Abigail Schultz, Vanderbilt University
- Abigail Schultz, Vanderbilt University

- Elizabeth Hooey, Vanderbilt University
- Elijah Sheridan, Vanderbilt University
- Stephen Brainerd, Wesleyan University
- Terry Brannigan, Wesleyan University
- Zahra Biabani, Vanderbilt University
- Laith Kayat, Vanderbilt University
- Melanie Mountry, UC Santa Barbara
- Laith Kayat, Vanderbilt University
- Austin Wang, Vanderbilt University
- Hannah Goldstein, Wesleyan University
- Rashmi Jha, Vanderbilt University
- Timothy White, Wesleyan University
- Austin Hoag, Vanderbilt University
- Margot Lurie , Amherst College
- Haley Keepax, Savannah College of Art and Design
- Iman Cochun, Brown University
- Emily Shiroff, Vanderbilt University
- Hailey Zhu, Boston College
- Mia Kotelec, UCSB
- Carissa Li, Vanderbilt University
- Helena de Oliveira Laub, University of Southern California
- Betty Barnett, Vanderbilt University
- Ruby Levitin, Wesleyan University
- Zander Owens

- Justin Ratkovic, Wesleyan alumnus
- Betty Barnett, Vanderbilt University
- Alec Salit, University of central Florida
- Stephanie Dukich, Wesleyan University Alumni
- Luke Goldstein, Wesleyan Alumni
- Veer Shah, Vanderbilt University
- Alec Salit, University of central Florida
- Nate Rich, University of Richmond
- Gabrielle Ouellette, Wesleyan University
- Estelle Shaya, Undergraduate Student at Vanderbilt University
- Eleanor Van Evera, Wesleyan University
- Morgan Elrod-Erickson, Vanderbilt University
- Stephanie Dukich, Wesleyan University Alumni
- Lisa Stein, Wesleyan University
- Shannon Duffy, University of Connecticut
- Shaun Simoneau, University of Connecticut
- Amanda Vera, Princeton University
- Sophie Bird, Student, Wesleyan University
- Joseph Sexto, Vanderbilt University
- Rashmi Jha, Vanderbilt University
- Margaret Rodriguez, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- James Chang, University of Pennsylvania
- Ryan Joyce, Vanderbilt University
- Chidera Ejikeme, Harvard University