



**Testimony of Lynn Ofori**  
**Member of Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice**  
**Testimony for the Judicial Committee Public Hearing**  
**SB 987: An Act Concerning Reinvestment of Savings Achieved Through a**  
**Reduction In Correctional Facility Population Into Reentry and**  
**Community-Based Services and Programs,**  
**March 10th, 2021**

To the esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Lynn Ofori, and I am a member of the Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice and I am writing in support of S.B. 987, An Act Concerning of Savings Achieved through A Reduction in Correctional Facility Population into Reentry and Community-based Services and Programs.

The state of Connecticut needs to reinvest in community services both for reentry support for formerly incarcerated citizens, as well as the stabilization of communities to prevent involvement with the criminal justice system with a focus on Black and brown communities who have been and continue to be affected by systemic racism. In my community I have seen and experienced how many hurdles there are to navigate, especially in securing and maintaining housing and employment. If we do not provide meaningful transitional supports we are by default setting up citizens for failure and those who have been previously incarcerated to recidivate.

At the Katal Center, we are engaged in a new campaign called #CutShutINVEST. This campaign is designed to ensure that Connecticut:

- **Cut** the number of people incarcerated in jails and prisons. Cut the number of people on probation and parole;
- **Shut** prison down;
- **Invest** in the communities most harmed by systemic racism and mass incarceration, into housing, healthcare, education, jobs, and more.

The campaign supports the provision to expand mobile crisis services to 24 hours, seven days a week, and to prioritize mobile crisis services for 911 calls involving mental health emergencies. It is important that the public see that all savings from these closures be directly reinvested in the community services like the ones listed to support the individuals and communities impacted by incarceration.

I would like to see further discussion and transparency in this bill, but am largely in support of S.B 987.

Thank you,

Lynn Ofori