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**BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES**  
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**Testimony of Carleton J. Giles**  
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**Board of Pardons and Paroles**

**H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

**Appropriations Committee**

**February 24, 2023**

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Carleton J. Giles, Chairman of the Board of Pardons and Paroles ("Board") and I am very grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill, 6659 *An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023, and Making Appropriations Therefor*.

The Board is an independent agency within the Department of Correction ("DOC") for administrative purposes only. The Board's budget regularly appears as a line item within the larger DOC budget. Our mission is to *facilitate the successful reintegration of suitable offenders into the community*. In keeping with our mission we believe:

- That public safety is best achieved if criminal justice policy takes both punishment and rehabilitation into account;
- In victims' rights;
- That everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect;
- In the potential for positive change;
- In the utilization of evidence-based practices in our decision making;
- In maximizing resources; and
- That community safety is achieved through multi-agency collaboration.

In Fiscal Year 2021/2022, the Board reviewed a total of 3512 cases for parole consideration, 2,195 applications for pardon consideration and 146 Applications for commutation of sentence. Panels of the Board conducted 2,984 hearings for the purposes of granting, rescinding or

revoking parole, 1,251 reviews resulting in the granting or denying of various types of pardons and held 95 hearings resulting in the granting or denial of commutation of sentence.

Overall, the Board currently has 76 established full-time and part-time positions, of which 59 are currently filled. There are seven (7) vacant Board Member positions (2 full-time and 5 part-time) subject to being filled by the Governor, as well as ten (10) vacant permanent staff positions due to recent retirements. Of these ten vacant positions the Board is currently seeking to fill six (6) positions.

Throughout the period of the pandemic, the Board continued to carry out its work as an essential agency, largely without any interruption to our operations. At that time the Board made the necessary decision to retrofit its existing IT infrastructure to conduct all pardon, parole and commutation proceedings remotely and we intend to continue doing so for the foreseeable future. Additionally, we now are also providing public access by live streaming all our meetings, hearings, and proceedings via our website and YouTube Live.

The Board remains committed to fulfilling all of its responsibilities in the most efficient and fiscally prudent manner possible to best serve the citizens of the State of Connecticut. The Governor's proposed budget will allow the Board to maintain existing operations and carry out our core functions.

Thank you for your continued support and I am happy to provide any additional information the Committee might require, or to answer any questions you might have.