

Name: Eric Amado

Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

Testimony:

State of Connecticut

CT Senate Judiciary Committee

My name is Eric Amado #220440. I am incarcerated at McDougall CI. I have been incarcerated for 33+ years. At the time of my offense in October 19, 1990, I was 23 years old. I was later tried and convicted of Capital Felony Murder, and was sentenced to a term of Life Without the Possibility of Parole (LWOP) as a first time offender. My sole defense at trial was self defense.

I am writing to this Committee concerning two issues. One, a Second Chance Juvenile Parole bill for juveniles under the age of 26 years old, and two, for the CT D.O.C to provide stronger Wi-Fi reception for inmate video visits.

I would like to first address the Juvenile concern. As a younger individual, I would often react to situations without thinking about my actions. Neither would I think, right away, about how my actions could be harmful to others. I would just react impulsively to situations that occurred in my life. I saw that the peers in my age group reacted in the exact same manner. I viewed my behavior, our behavior as being normal. A way to survive within my surroundings. Oftentimes, I would never stop and look at the situation clearly before reacting as I do today. Now, as an older individual, I stop, think and look at the situation clearly before reacting. I now understand that the decisions that I make today will affect me tomorrow. I have learned that lesson all too well.

However, as I have matured over the years, I have devoted my time and effort in maintaining active engagement in work, college, programming, mentorship, and religious services while incarcerated over the past 33+ years.

Even more importantly, I have maintained an excellent D.O.C disciplinary history over these years. The man that I have become today through maturity and rehabilitative efforts is certainly not the 23 year old juvenile that I was at the time of my offense in October 1990. Not only have I taken full responsibility for my actions, and have expressed on [[many]] occasions to my family and peers the deep heartfelt remorse and empathy for the families of the deceased, I truly and sincerely understand the magnitude of how my actions have caused the pain of the families of the deceased. Living with that empathy [[daily]] has given me the fortitude and determination throughout this incarceration to take every step necessary towards giving back and becoming a better person each and everyday.

Irrespective of being granted a Full Commutation Hearing before the Board of Pardons and Paroles in 2023, only later to be denied that wonderful opportunity due to the BOPP's changes and newly adopted policy denying individuals sentenced to LWOP eligibility for a commutation. Although my hopes of one day returning home to my family were dashed, I continued to remain steadfast in taking the initiative to rehabilitate myself even further. I continue to be a model inmate amongst my peers and D.O.C staff.

Most recently, On February 15, 2024, I have enrolled into CT's State College Pell Grant Program and have been attending classes working towards an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. I have maintained an overall GPA of 3.0 throughout my classes. Motivated [[daily]] to give back for my actions, I have become a Patient Care Assistant (PCA) with the hope of making a difference in the lives of my peers incarcerated that are medically or mentally unwell that need care.

II. Due to the lack of adequate and strengthened Wi-Fi capabilities with the CT. D.O.C Inmate Video Visits, oftentimes we are unable to link in with our families, friends and loved ones for our pre-scheduled video visits. This present flawed Wi-Fi system has caused much disappointment for families, and have put major strains on relationships. The two facilities that I have personally experienced this issue with are Garner CI and MacDougall CI. Both visiting room correctional officers have insisted that the cancelled video visits were due to weak and inadequate Wi-Fi.

In closing, as I am humbled by this opportunity to respectfully address this Judiciary Committee, my hopes are that this Committee strongly considers raising the Juvenile Bill for [[all]] those under the age of 26 years old for an opportunity to receive a Juvenile parole hearing based on the lack of cognitive ability to process their actions at the age of their offense, and, a more strengthened and upgraded Wi-Fi system to provide better service for consistent pre scheduled Inmate Video Visits.

Thank you for reading this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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