

Good morning,

As I wish I could be there to testify in the flesh I cannot as I'm helping care for my dad who is in ICU. This bill is dear to my heart as I work directly with the community population that this bill will be beneficial to.

Many days as I'm walking and talking to residents in the different communities and I inquire did they vote or all they registered, the answer is overwhelmingly I'm a felon I can't vote. I try to explain the new laws and convince them that they now have a right to vote but they seem to feel that no one cares what they have to say. This bill will help ease those who feel thrown away and will know that although they made a mistake they have the opportunity to now have their voices heard again!

We all make mistakes some just have heavier consequences than others but if we truly believe that all should have the opportunity to do their time and regain their life back then bill HB-51 would be a great start! I say this bill needs to pass. With the majority population being incarcerated are minorities this would be a great way to stop the suppression of the minority vote! ' If nothing changes, nothing changes! Let's be the state that proves that we are moving forth and it won't be business as usually!

Thank you,

Toni Strong Pratt  
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