

Fully Restoring Every Sons Hope



Testimony for House Bill 560:

Reverend Curtis Alston

Curtis Alston

Assistant Director of F.R.E.S.H.

(Fully, Restoring, Every, Sons, Hope)

My name is Reverend Curtis Alston, the Assistant Director of a non-profit called F.R.E.S.H., which stands for Fully, Restoring, Every, Sons, Hope. I came to testify to the fact of the importance of preparing the way for those that are returning to society. It is so many obstacles that has already set themselves in the path of returning citizens, such as trying to find a job with a record. The absent of life experiences from incarceration for any period of time and the doubt that tries to invade the mind of those that can't see the hope of housing.

That is why House Bill 560 is necessary due to the amount of returning citizens that will be returning to our communities. This bill will ensure the benefits of helping to assist those returning with the opportunity that every other person has, such as those that have not been marked by a mistake. Even the former HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan has agreed with this idea by granting the opportunity to those reentering society by changing their own procedures in January of 2011 from rejection to acceptance. He sent a letter across the country that emphasizing the importance of providing "second chances" for formerly incarcerated individuals. If this were something they could see, along with 23 other Federal Agencies; which are called, "The Federal Interagency Reentry Council", why can't others? As individuals who can see a problem I believe that it is our responsibility to offer a solution. I believe that House Bill 560 will help in this effort to reinstate worthy, pride, the family fabric, and community by helping those returning to the society... I will end with this quote, "Life does not get better by chance. It gets better by change." Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

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