

## We Need You, Now!

OSJ is excited to announce that both of our proposed bills (changes in the law) have been introduced by supportive legislators. We need to work together to get them passed!

### **HB6633 - Reform Address Verifications**

Hundreds are arrested every year because of late paperwork. The homeless are automatically at risk of a felony arrest because they lack an address. Another arrest can mean a lost job or a probation violation; another felony can make it harder to get a job, get an apartment or get your life back. By allowing for phoning-in of address verifications, and by eliminating the mandatory felony, our bill will keep the verification letter from running your life.

### **HB6367 - Early Termination of Probation**

The average term for probation in Connecticut is 11 months. For those on the registry, it is usually 10-35 years. Excessive probation just keeps people down and is expensive for the state, without making anyone's life safer. Everyone should be able to ask the courts to reduce probation once it no longer serves a purpose.

We at OSJ believe it is a future worth fighting for. NOW we need you and your friends and family to speak up. Representatives and Senators need to hear WHY these laws must pass.

*They hear voices like ours in other states: Utah Sen. Todd Weiler has proposed legislation to reduce the time on the registry. Sen. Weiler said, "This is like my third or fourth attempt at the "sex offender" database, **only because I keep on getting contacted by these families saying, 'We feel like this has become a lifelong sentence, and we don't think it's fair.'**" [Proposed bill would shorten time on Utah's registry for some "sex offenders" | KSL.com](#)*

*In North Dakota, the House recently voted 62 to 29 to allow those registered to ask the courts to get off the Registry early...[North Dakota House passes bill to allow sex offenders to apply for early removal from registry - InForum | Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo news, weather and sports](#)*

*In Connecticut, people like you changed the minds and votes of conservative senators, convincing them that the registry is a 'scarlet letter' and winning their support in getting more than 500 people off of the Registry. [Senate Hearing on SB1194 - Sen. Winfield and Sen. Kissel](#)]*

Imagine what life could be like if you didn't have to worry about a felony charge for a late letter. And how would it feel to reduce your probation term to 5 years?

**Please contact your State Representative and State Senator  
and ask him/her to support *HB6633* and *HB6367***

Find Your State Representative and Senator:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>

Call and write a letter and tell a bit about your story and ask them to support the bills. You can work with OSJ at the State Capitol and testify when we get a public hearing.

**\*\*Watch your inbox for information on when we have a Public Hearing scheduled for our bills\*\***

If you have a story you'd like to share on late letters, use our Share Your Story page:

<https://onestandardofjustice.org/share-your-story/>



OSJ recently presented at the Social Welfare Action Alliance's (SWAA) 2025 People's Forum (2/19/25) on our proposed legislation. Thank you, to our constituents who came to show their support, the legislators who attended including Rep. Anne Hughes, and our community partner Marisol Garcia from Prison2Policy. We also screened the New York Times news video "Frightening and High" about the false information used by the US Supreme Court to justify the Registry's restrictions.

## Absolute Pardon and Wellness Program

Approximately a year ago, OSJ began its PARDON PROGRAM. We are delighted to continue this work with the latest group, our 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort, that began in January. Our next group will start in June 2025. We are looking for 10 new people to work with us from Hartford and another 10 outside of Hartford. Transportation is important because there are 4-6 group classes in Hartford for everyone including those from outside of Hartford.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be 5 years or more from last conviction.
- Good track record for leading a law-abiding life.

Please fill out this form to be considered:

<https://onestandardofjustice.org/pardon-interest/>

We do not use a lawyer. We will get you through the application process successfully and support you through the Public Hearing. While we have scholarship funds for Hartford residents, we lack

funds for others. If you would like to make a donation to the Pardons Scholarship Fund, you may do so here:

<https://onestandardofjustice.org/pardon-donations>

THIS WORK IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT! OSJ is committed to reduce the Registry one person at a time while we move legislation to create rational laws. The pardon process is a moving experience for everyone who participates.

## Submitting Address Verification Letters by Email

Go to our page to see how to submit your letter by Fax and Email:

<https://onestandardofjustice.org/education/how-to-fax-or-email-verification-letters/>

**\*\*Reminder\*\***

When you email your letter, you will now receive a response acknowledging receipt of the verification letter. Please contact OSJ to let us know that the

system is working correctly or if you are having any problems.

<https://onestandardofjustice.org/contact>

You can find the bill allowing fax and email verification here:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/act/pa/pdf/2023PA-00193-R00SB-00969-PA.pdf>

## Congratulations on 1 year of Fearless (or Fear-Less)

(New start time 7:30pm)

Our emotional support group has celebrated 1 year of regular monthly meetings. In January 2024 FEARLESS was resurrected with a monthly Zoom meeting. We have a few regular attendees and quite a

few who have dropped in for a meeting or 2. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month on Zoom for 1 to 1 ½ hours with topics such as: Isolation and Shame, Gratitude, How Important is it, coming from the moderator and participants. The purpose of FEARLESS is to provide experience, strength, and hope to all persons forced to register and their loved ones. The meeting topics help us stay focused. The moderator does their best to keep everyone's sharing on topic and without crosstalk. Everyone is given the opportunity to share, however, sharing is voluntary. We vet everyone to ensure that all participants are members of our community. OSJ is looking for suggestions on how to make the meetings better and to increase attendance. If you have any suggestions or questions, please fill out the Questions form on our Fearless page. To sign up to receive invitations to the Fearless meetings, fill out the form here:

<https://onestandardofjustice.org/services-and-resources/fearless-support-group/>

## Phone Scams Continue

The state of CT will never ask you for money over the phone, threaten arrest, or any other negative consequence if you do not comply with the caller's demands. If you receive a scam call, please let your local police department know. OSJ would also like you to share your story with us here:

<https://onestandardofjustice.org/scam-protection/>

Please do not allow yourself to be scammed.

## Person-First Language

Please know that we do not use dehumanizing labels in our work and we ask that you do the same. For example, a sex offender is a person who committed a crime of a sexual nature; an inmate is a person who is incarcerated. Occasionally an academic paper, news article, or proposed bill language will use the term sex offender, we have no control over this. OSJ RESPECTS ALL PEOPLE.