

Good afternoon Representatives – I wanted to thank you all for your thoughtful discussion on expungements this afternoon, and I hope you can pass my thanks along to the Judiciary Committee. I know there was some back and forth after the DOC testimony and a question came up about who might be consulted for more information. For what it’s worth, I think David Damore from CSG would be a great person to consult with on this issue. As some of you know, some of the Justice Reinvestment initiatives are focused on getting both our inmates who are sentenced to periods of incarceration and our inmates who are released into the communities, the appropriate level of supervision and services to address their therapeutic needs, avoid recidivism and ensure community safety – win/win/win. As DOC indicated in testimony, risk assessments at presentencing and upon release into probation or parole are needed in order to provide a more effective and appropriate level of supervision and services in facilities and in communities. David Damore is the person with CSG who has been analyzing Vermont criminal justice systems, statutes and service delivery and has worked with DOC in connection with the hard work they are doing on prison reform.

I hope you know, we are very supportive of the work being done with and by CSG in the Justice Reinvestment space and are committed to its success. I appreciate you are willing to take a step back to see how all of this important work and all the unrelated moving parts, like S. 7, work together. If a bill like S. 7 serves to undermine the work Public Safety or DOC is doing in the justice reinvestment area to improve responses and outcomes, we are taking one step forward and two steps back.

Again, thank you all so much. Jaye

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