



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM TONG
147TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

July 7, 2017

Judge Robert J. Devlin, Jr, Chair
Connecticut Sentencing Commission
185 Main Street, Room 212
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Judge Devlin:

I write today to request the Sentencing Commission examine the intersection of state laws and policies with federal immigration law, including but not limited to how they may result in deportations, and steps that the General Assembly can take to ameliorate negative immigration consequences.

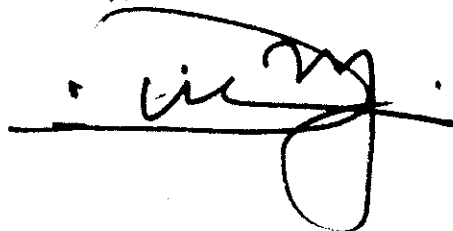
This issue was brought to my attention due to the cases of Arnold Giammarco and Paolina Milardo, both of whom were longstanding Connecticut residents. Both Mr. Giammarco and Ms. Milardo did commit crimes but it is my understanding that they both paid their debt to society and were working and productive members of society. However, following the completion of their sentences, Mr. Giammarco and Ms. Milardo have both been deported, the federal government citing those old convictions as the reason for their deportation. Neither Mr. Giammarco nor Ms. Milardo were informed of the possible immigration consequences by their lawyers.

I understand that the cases of Mr. Giammarco and Ms. Milardo are not unique. Similar cases have impacted families across our state. In many instances, these people are sent to countries that they have never visited and where they do not speak the language. Families are broken apart and bread winners are sent overseas, causing financial hardship.

This issue has taken on even greater urgency in the last several months with the recent executive orders signed by President Trump. His executive order seeks to deputize local law enforcement in enforcing federal immigration law and deport those arrested for minor offenses. These policies will likely erode progress in community policing and discourage vulnerable residents from reporting crimes, making all of us less safe.

It is extremely important that we understand the full impact of state law on immigration status and I thank you for looking into this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Tong', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

William Tong
State Representative, 147th District