

Submitter: Susan Coon  
On Behalf Of: SB 538  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006  
Susan Coon  
04/26/20

My name is Susan Coon, and I am here today not because I have lived the same experiences as those directly affected, but because I believe in standing with my community when something is wrong.

I am speaking as a concerned citizen, a mother, and someone who believes deeply in fairness, dignity, and the right of every individual to be heard and respected. Although I have not personally faced [the issue at hand], I have listened to the stories of those who have. I have seen how harmful policies and practices can create unnecessary suffering and exclusion.

It is our responsibility — especially those of us who may not experience the same challenges — to show up, to listen, and to advocate for better. We cannot turn away simply because it does not touch our own lives directly. Injustice anywhere diminishes the quality of life for us all.

I am here to say: I care. I am here to say: This matters. And I urge you to take action that reflects the values of compassion, justice, and true community. Thank you for considering my voice today.