

FREEDOM. REENTRY. EDUCATION. EQUITY.



Connecticut is considered one of the most progressive states in the country and has been recognized as a leader in criminal justice reformation. However, the state's probation system remains a major concern that demands attention.

Probation was designed to be an alternative to incarceration, but instead, it has become a direct pathway into the prison system, creating a toxic cycle of supervision and incarceration.

Today, more than 32,000 people are on probation in Connecticut.

How toxic is Connecticut's probation system?

- **Pathway to Incarceration:** Over 1 in 10 incarcerations are due to violations of probation, fueling mass incarceration in the state. As of July 1st, 2025, there are 32,464 individuals on probation.
- **Technical Violations:** Technical violations, such as missing curfew, contact with others on probation, or failing to pay supervision fees, can result in arrest, and for many residents, the first time behind bars. A 2017 Yale report found that **79% of individuals awaiting a probation revocation hearing lost their jobs, and almost half lost their housing**, both of which may be a condition of the probation sentence.
- **Food Insecurity:** 100% of all technical violations on SNAP applications, which may act as a barrier to food security.
- **Financial Burdens:** Probation fees, which include a \$200 supervision fee along with mandated program fees, also strain individuals financially, with under-resourced and marginalized communities most impacted. These expenses increase the likelihood of incarceration for those who cannot pay.
- **Taxpayer Responsibility:** It costs over \$249 a day to keep 1 person incarcerated, adding up to over \$90,000 of taxpayer dollars spent on keeping just 1 individual in a cage.

KEY SOLUTIONS:

During the 2025 legislative session, Representative Joshua Hall introduced HB 6361, a proposed bill that would eliminate incarceration as a consequence for non-criminal technical violations, introduce earned time credit for good behavior, and remove unnecessary and expensive supervision fees to reduce caseloads and mitigate **the trauma of arrest and incarceration**. For Connecticut to be a true leader in progressive criminal justice reform, it must prioritize the humanization of those involved in the criminal justice system.

1. **Eliminate incarceration as a consequence for noncriminal technical violations.** Instead, implement alternative non-custodial implications, such as suspension of earned time credit or written notices. Additionally, removing incarceration for noncriminal violations would save taxpayers thousands of dollars each year.
2. **Apply earned time credit** to cut probation sentences for good behavior, therefore incentivizing success and reducing caseloads for probation officers, allowing them to focus on individuals who do require more attention and support.
3. **Remove the requirement to report technical violations on CT SNAP applications.** Access to resources such as SNAP has been shown to reduce recidivism by 10% within the first year of receiving benefits.
4. **Eliminate financial barriers** by removing unnecessary and expensive supervision fees that disproportionately and negatively impact low-income and marginalized communities.
5. **Issue written notices** to replace automatic detention as a consequence for technical violations, reducing the trauma of arrest.

We demand #PathwaysNotPunishment and #SupportNotSurveillance! For more information, please get in touch with the organizer at cultivatingjustice@chicksahoyfarm.org