

The Connecticut General Assembly



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REP. LAWLOR: NEW REPORT SHOWS EFFECT OF RESCISSIONS ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS

Office of Fiscal Analysis confirms \$6.9 million in criminal justice cuts

The state legislature's nonpartisan Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) today released a report explaining that the budget cuts made last month by the governor will indeed result in a \$6.9 million reduction in the criminal justice reform package passed by the legislature earlier this year, a point that **State Representative Mike Lawlor** (D-East Haven), co-chairman of the legislature's Judiciary Committee, has been stressing over the past couple of weeks.

After Lawlor publicly urged the governor to restore the criminal justice funding earlier this month, the governor and her spokespeople incorrectly denied that her cuts negatively affected the anti-crime measures, which were passed by the legislature in April.

"We now have the state's nonpartisan budget office confirming that these cuts do indeed affect the reforms that we passed almost unanimously earlier this year," Lawlor said. "Those reforms were mainly targeted at increased prosecution of repeat violent offenders and towards freeing up prison beds for violent offenders by diverting non-violent, less serious offenders into community-based punishment programs. I know that the governor supports these things, that isn't in question and I don't doubt that. The dispute has been over whether the budget cuts she made would affect those reforms, and now we have confirmation that indeed they do."

Lawlor is advocating for a portion of the surplus to be used to restore those items.

He said, "During difficult economic times, we have to make many difficult decisions, and this is certainly one of them. I fully understand the need to make some rescissions, however this is an area we should not be cutting. I support using the surplus to go towards energy assistance, but I am again urging that we also use a portion of the surplus to restore the \$6.9 million in criminal justice budget cuts."

OFA's report on the criminal justice rescissions is attached. It is anticipated that OFA will also be releasing an expanded and more detailed version of the report on Friday.