Chairman Schraa and esteemed members of the Committee on Corrections

My name again is Conor Williams, Economic Policy Analyst from Community Advocates Public Policy Institute in Milwaukee. I am also the facilitator of the Milwaukee Reentry Council, a sub-committee of the Milwaukee Community Justice Council. I wish to note that my testimony here today is on my own behalf and on behalf of Community Advocates – I am not speaking on behalf of the Milwaukee Reentry Council or the Milwaukee Community Justice Council.

I am here today to speak in support of AB831 which limits the maximum period of imprisonment following revocation of extended supervision or probation for certain technical violations of supervision. AB 831 targets the 25% of revocations that were based on non-criminal violations of supervision.

There is a basic unfairness in our current corrections policies, a person can be in compliance for many years on community supervision but then stumble and can be revoked and have to serve the entire duration of their held over prison term without any credit for the good time served in the community.

The most effective corrections practices are based upon the principle of graduated sanctions and graduated incentives.

According to Columbia University there are 31 states and the federal government that all limit community supervision to 5 years or less, in WI people can be on community supervision for decades which sets them up for failure and costs us taxpayers enormous amounts of money.

People who are in prison are human beings like the rest of us. It is wise for us to give them reasons for hope, to affirm pro-social behavior.

I believe that it will improve our reentry outcomes if you shepherd this bill into law and that it represents a wise thing to do for both public safety and good stewardship of taxpayer resources.