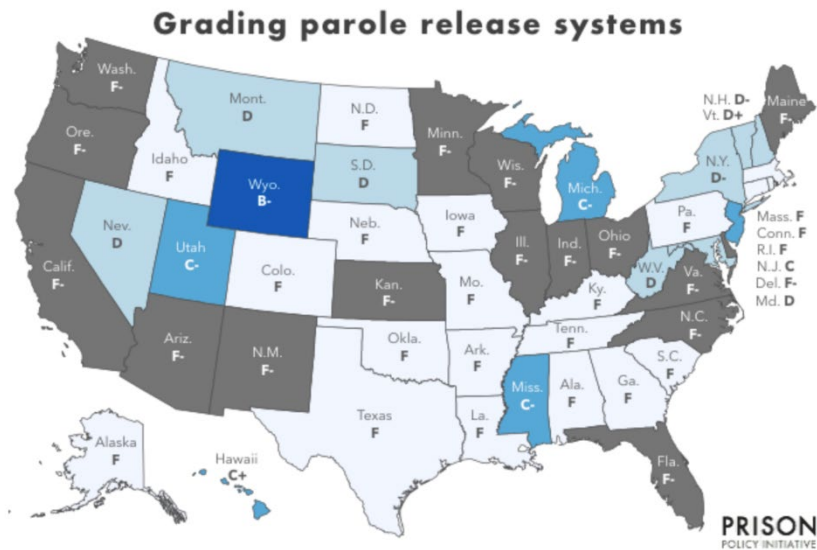


As I mentioned in my verbal vote explanation, SB 951 is an unsound fiscal and economic move that should be avoided, not embraced.

I referred to The Prison Policy Initiative website:

https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/grading_parole.html which displays the following,



I further went on to reference the number of certified parole and probation officers employed by State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision. This represents an extremely large number of individuals and each of these people will gain immediately and lucrative financial benefits regardless of whether their jobs is in the “high risk, high stress” category.

These costs will negatively impact the current budget, and all future budgets. Additionally, it will impact early retirement rates for the next five to ten years, and therefore there are yet unforeseen policy drawbacks.

During the closing portion of my comments, I used the phrase “political payback.” This phrase caused the Senate President to ask for clarification. The Senate President wanted to warn me about impugning members of the Senate.

I explained that I was not impugning any members of the Senate. My speech, instead was a reference to the number of NGOs, non-profits, and activist organizations that are interested in pursuing this agenda, including a broad spectrum of union employees and their advocates.

Sincerely,

Dennis Linthicum