



State of Connecticut

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel Director Office of Chief Public Defender

**Committee on the Judiciary
March 12, 2021**

Raised Bill 6539 - An Act Concerning Commercial Driver's License Holders and Pretrial Alcohol Education Programs

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports *Raised Bill 6539, An Act Concerning Commercial Driver's License Holders and Pretrial Alcohol Education Programs*. The language of the bill clarifies the circumstances when a person is not eligible to make an application for this program. Under the bill, a person would be ineligible if driving his/her personal motor vehicle to transport "merchandise, freight or persons in connection to a business enterprise."

While clarifying the ineligibility criteria, this amendment would permit persons, in very limited circumstances, the ability to apply for the program. The change is fair as it affords eligibility to apply to persons driving their personal car for personal reasons, thereby treating all operators driving for personal reasons the same. The Office of Chief Public Defender has advocated for this change in the past and requests that the Committee vote favorably on this bill.