



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

Office of Chief Public Defender
55 Farmington Avenue, 8th Floor
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
(860) 509-6405 Telephone
(860) 509-6495 Fax

Christine Perra Rapillo
Chief Public Defender
Christine.Rapillo@jud.ct.gov

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan
Legal Counsel, Director
deborah.d.sullivan@jud.ct.gov

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

**Committee on Public Safety and Security
March 2, 2021**

Proposed S.B. 396 (LCO 2329) An Act Allowing Law Enforcement Officers To Track and Trace Cellular Phones of Young Adults in Distress

The Office of Chief Public Defender is concerned that passage of this legislation as currently drafted may violate the state and federal constitutional rights (e.g., the right against unreasonable search and seizure) of individuals who would be subject to such tracking and tracing. In addition, this office is concerned this legislation may lead to unintended consequences that increase, rather than decrease, the risk of harm to such individuals.

The Office of Chief Public Defender is very much aligned with the worthy goal of protecting Connecticut's young people as the Division of Public Defender Services' practice areas include delinquency defense and child protection. This bill is applicable to individuals aged 18 to 20 years who are dependent upon and residing with a parent or guardian. But as drafted, it raises concern.

Therefore this office requests that the Committee reject this bill as drafted. If, the Committee decides to move the bill forward in the legislative process, this office urges caution with regard to constitutionality and unintended consequences that may result and respectfully requests to be part of any discussion. Thank you for considering our perspective.