



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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

Judiciary Committee - March 25, 2022

Raised S.B. 461 -

An Act Concerning the Statute of Limitations for Crimes Committed Against the Elderly

Mission Statement of the Division of Public Defender Services

Striving to ensure justice and a fair and unbiased system, the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services zealously promotes and protects the rights, liberty and dignity of all clients entrusted to us. We are committed to holistic representation that recognizes clients as individuals, fosters trust and prevents unnecessary and wrongful convictions.

The Office of Chief Public Defender would urge this committee to take no action on *Raised Bill No. 461, An Act Concerning the Statute of Limitations for Crimes Committed Against the Elderly*. The Connecticut general statutes dictate the statute of limitations for offenses. Such limitations run from the date of the offense. However, this bill would extend the statute of limitations for an offense against an elderly person to within 5 years of the *discovery* of the commission of the offense. Consistent with its position in the past, the Office of Chief Public Defender is concerned that with the extended period of time, evidence may be unable to be located, destroyed, or may deteriorate. In addition, witnesses' memories fade and sometimes no longer exist. It may be difficult or impossible to locate witnesses who may have moved or have passed on. Therefore, this office asks that the Committee take no action on this bill.