



DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES
State of Connecticut

OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER
55 FARMINGTON AVENUE, 8TH FLOOR
HARTFORD, CT 06105

ATTORNEY TASHUN BOWDEN-LEWIS
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER
TEL: (860) 509-6429
FAX: (860) 509-6499

**Testimony of the Office of Chief Public Defender
Benedict R. Daigle, Assistant Public Defender**

**Committee on Judiciary – March 22, 2023
Raised S.B. 1062 – An Act Concerning the Provision of
Emergency Medical Services to an Individual who is in
Direct Contact with or in the Custody or Control of a Peace Officer**

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) supports *Raised S.B. 1062 (LCO 4370)*, as the bill is an important step to ensure that people in contact with peace officers receive timely medical services for physical and mental health emergencies.

There is no substitute for professionals' possessing and acting with empathy, understanding, and goodwill toward those whom they serve. Nonetheless, of course, public policy can require and reinforce desired conduct. This legislation, which mirrors 2022 Substitute for Raised S.B. 445 (legislation which received unanimous support in the Senate), does just that.

With regard to this legislation and related issues, this office supports the continued expansion of partnerships among peace officers and others to ensure that the needs of individuals in such direct contact with peace officers are met effectively, with appropriate care by those trained to provide it.

OCPD requests favorable action on this legislation. Thank you.

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.