



DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES
State of Connecticut

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

Judiciary Committee – March 22, 2023
Raised H.B. 5824 – An Act Reforming The Bail System

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) opposes section 9 of **Raised H. B. 5824 An Act Reforming The Bail System**. As drafted, the bill would eliminate the discretion of the court to release a person on a promise to appear (PTA) for certain offenses. The proposal requires that the court release a person either on a bond with or without surety with conditions. The requirement that a bond be posted to enable the release of a person so arrested will impact upon indigent persons who are unable to afford any bond at all. While current law would permit the court to release such persons on a PTA, this bill would eliminate a PTA as an option.

The Sentencing Commission is currently studying bail in this state. OCPD requests that the Committee **delete section 9** and refer this proposal to the Sentencing Commission for discussion by its diverse membership. 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.