



DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES
State of Connecticut

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

Committee on Judiciary – March 8, 2023

**Raised H.B. 6637 – An Act Concerning a Crime Victim’s Participatory
Rights in a Violation of Probation or Conditional Discharge Hearing**

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) opposes **Raised H.B. 6637 – An Act Concerning a Crime Victim’s Participatory Rights in a Violation of Probation or Conditional Discharge Hearing (LCO 3622)**, as drafted, insofar as the bill would allow victim input on conduct unrelated to the victim and the offense which led to the probation or conditional discharge.

OCPD opposes victim input where the conduct constituting the violation, including a new arrest, is unrelated to the conduct which affected the victim in the first matter. For instance, a violation based on alcohol consumption, where the underlying shoplifting offense did not involve alcohol, would not warrant a store owner’s input. Allowing for victim input on conduct unrelated to the victim and the underlying offense is unnecessary and unfair.

OCPD does not oppose victim input, after a violation of probation or conditional discharge is established, where the conduct constituting the violation is related to the conduct which affected the victim.¹ For example, a violation based on alcohol consumption, where the underlying offense involved intoxication, would warrant such input.

OCPD supports the notification provision beginning at line 51.

Thus, OCPD requests the revision or removal of the new language beginning at line 71. OCPD was not involved in the drafting of this bill but remains available to discuss it. Thank you.

¹ In these instances, the victim also may have testified under oath as a witness during trial.

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.