



**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 S.B. 926 – An Act Concerning Persons Committed to the Jurisdiction of the**  
**Psychiatric Security Review Board**

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) **supports Raised S. B. 926 An Act Concerning Persons Committed to the Jurisdiction of the Psychiatric Security Review Board.** This proposal would amend C.G.S. 17a-593 to eliminate continued commitment of a person found not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) to the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) at the end of the acquittee's maximum term of commitment. For an acquittee who continues to be a danger to him/herself or others or who are gravely disabled, the proposal provides that the prosecutor may apply for commitment to a hospital for psychiatric disabilities instead. This change would cap the term of PSRB supervision at the maximum sentence yet provide a mechanism for the continued supervision of the acquittee. The bill would eliminate the current system which has resulted in certain persons being committed to the PSRB in excess of the maximum criminal exposure for an offense, had they pled guilty or been found guilty. The Office of Chief Public Defender requests that the Committee act favorably on this bill. Thank you.

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***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.*