



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Testimony of the Office of Chief Public Defender Renee Cimino, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE - MARCH 15, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5429

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSARY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR YOUTH IN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION FACILITIES

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) supports *Raised H.B. 5429, An Act Concerning the Commissary Implementation Plan for Youth in Department of Correction Facilities*. The legislation would require the Commissioner of Corrections to report on and include any recommendations pertaining to the implementation of the Commissary Plan for youth in the Department of Corrections facilities.

The Department of Correction had established a plan to provide youth in Department of Correction facilities with a positive behavior motivation system for use as payment towards commissary goods. The plan included identifying youth within the institution that did not have equitable access to commissary, including those who are indigent, without family support, or with disabilities that contribute to their lack of access to commissary.

This report will provide a review of the implementation of the Commissary Plan and make recommendations for changes to such plan to ensure that all youth in the Department of Corrections receive equitable commissary options.

This office thanks the Committee for raising this important legislation and respectfully requests a joint favorable report.