



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

Office of Chief Public Defender

55 Farmington Avenue, 8th Floor
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
(860) 509-6405 Telephone
(860) 509-6495 Fax

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan

Legal Counsel, Director
deborah.d.sullivan@pds.ct.gov

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

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE - MARCH 20, 2024

Raised H. B. 5508

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) was established to review existing juvenile justice policy, recommend changes to strengthen the juvenile justice system and provide resources to at-risk youth.

The legislation proposed by JJPOC establishes a gender responsiveness subcommittee to develop policy and legislative recommendations to address improvements in the continuum of care for youth who identify as female and are impacted by the juvenile justice system.

It also expands reentry success plans to extend the use of transitional support providers for a period lasting up to twenty-four months following youths release from the Department of Correction and/or programs under Judicial Department.

Furthermore, this legislation requires the Department of Correction and/or programs under Judicial Department, to start job readiness programs and collaborate with the youth in seeking employment upon release from such facility.

As a long time participant on JJPOC, the Office of the Chief Public Defender (OCPD) knows firsthand the benefits of subcommittees for discussion, problem solving and collaboration between all stakeholders in a state system.

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In addition, connecting all at-risk youth with trauma and culturally informed services, career training and transitional support can provide a pathway for successful reintegration into communities while reducing the likelihood of recidivism.

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