



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director
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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE - MARCH 19, 2025

Raised Bill 7212
AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRUST ACT

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) supports Raised Bill 7212 - An Act Concerning the Trust Act. This bill would prohibit the disclosure of certain personal identifiable information and case information which is not public. This Office currently does not disclose such information pertaining to its clients because of the attorney client relationship. This Office thanks the Committee for raising this bill and the content that would protect such information from disclosure except as currently provided by the Connecticut Trust Act.

The bill also prohibits the use of interpretation services which may be provided by a federal immigration authority. This Office supports this prohibition because the use of such would raise a substantial risk, if not a probability, that the content of such discussions will be disclosed and possibly used against them without this protection. A number of public defender clients require the assistance of interpreters throughout the pendency of their state case. Although an interpreter may be available in the state courts, once the client leaves the courtroom, that interpreter is no longer available. As a result, this Office must provide interpreters for its clients throughout a client's representation regardless of whether the client is incarcerated. This year, this Office requested funding for 13 interpreters (speaking Spanish and Portuguese) to be hired for each of the 13 judicial districts. While this Office realizes that these languages are not the only languages wherein an interpreter is needed, this is very much needed to assist in providing the right to counsel as guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions.

In conclusion, the Office of Chief Public Defender requests this Committee to vote *favorably* on this bill. Thank you.