



## State of Connecticut

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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### Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director Office of Chief Public Defender

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE - MARCH 18, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5308

AN ACT CONCERNING POST-CONVICTION DNA TESTING

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) supports *Raised H.B. 5308 - An Act Concerning Post-Conviction DNA Testing*. The bill would permit a person to file for DNA testing if they were convicted and sentenced to incarceration. The person would be permitted to file a petition any time while incarcerated or after they have completed their sentence of incarceration and while on probation, parole, or under the supervision of a correctional agency. The DNA evidence sought for testing could be in the possession or control of the Division of Criminal Justice (prosecution), any law enforcement agency including but not limited to municipal or state police, a lab, or the court. In addition, if the petition for DNA testing is denied, the denial of such would be a final judgment for purposes of an appeal.

This office supports this bill and the application to persons while incarcerated, post incarceration and while under supervision, all the equivalent of "in custody." However, this criteria limits and excludes anyone who has completed their sentence of incarceration and is no longer under any supervision. This office appreciates the expansion as proposed in this bill but requests that a person have the ability to file a petition at *any time* post-conviction. Without limitation, a person who wishes to clear their name as they re-enter the community and working to better themselves may petition the court for DNA testing at any time.

In conclusion, this office requests that the Committee vote *favorably* on this bill and consider having no limitation on persons filing post conviction. Thank you.