



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 John R. DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel

Government Oversight Committee Public Hearing
March 10, 2026

**Raised Bill No. 5474 - AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OF MEDICAL CARE
FOR PERSONS WHO ARE INCARCERATED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS**

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) supports *Raised Bill 5474, An Act Concerning Oversight of Medical Care for Persons who are Incarcerated at the Department of Correction*, which (1) requires the Department of Correction to update its plan for medical care for persons who are incarcerated and report various information concerning medical care organized by correctional institution in an annual report, and (2) establishes the position of Correction Medical Deputy Ombuds to oversee efforts to obtain Medicaid for eligible persons who are incarcerated prior to discharge from a correctional institution.

Public Defenders represent more than 100,000 individuals annually. Based on our state-wide representation, a percentage of our clients will unfortunately be incarcerated for various periods of time ranging from days to years. OCPD supports any effort on the part of the Department of Correction that (1) updates and improves medical care for persons who are incarcerated and reports various information concerning medical care organized by correctional institution in an annual report, and (2) establishes the position of Correction Medical Deputy Ombuds to oversee efforts to obtain Medicaid for eligible persons who are incarcerated prior to discharge from a correctional institution.

OCPD supports this Raised Bill and requests that the bill be voted on favorably. Thank you.