



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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

S.B 6 - AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN- MARCH 3, 2026

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) **opposes** Section 3 of *S.B. 6, An Act Concerning Supports for Children and Families*. This Section prohibits individuals convicted of certain crimes from sharing a primary residence with a minor child unless the person is a biological or adoptive parent of such child prior to such conviction.

Section 3. This office **opposes** the legislation as written since it is overly broad and thus contains procedural and substantive due process violations. The legislation fails to provide an opportunity for the convicted person to be heard, lacks individual assessment (including assessment of the facts of the underlying conviction, date of conviction, age and relationship to victim), offender rehabilitation, and an appeal process.

In addition, as written the legislation does not comply with Connecticut's Parentage Act which recognizes parentage established based on enacted statutory standards. As a result, the language should not merely cover a biological or adoptive parent but cover any parentage in accordance with current law.

While this legislation may be symbolic to express societal values, prohibiting sharing a residence with a minor child based upon certain convictions without procedural and substantive safeguards will have unintended consequences for the minor child and convicted individual.

The Office of Chief Public Defender respectfully **requests that Section 3 be stricken** from the bill for the reasons aforesaid.