



***Division of Public Defender Services  
State of Connecticut***

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**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
MARCH 24, 2014**

**TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE RAPILLO  
DIRECTOR OF DELINQUENCY DEFENSE AND CHILD PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**

**Raised Bill 5589, AN ACT CONCERNING CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS**

**The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of Raised Bill 5589, An Act Concerning Custodial Interrogations.** This bill would render inadmissible any custodial statement obtained under false pretenses. While not limited to juveniles, this bill would provide valuable protection to young people who are being questioned by police. It is common for investigators to induce a confession by misleading the suspect. Police will tell a person of interest that another suspect has implicated them or that they have evidence that he or she committed the crime, even when it is not true. This is particularly problematic for adolescents and children, who are much more susceptible to influence. Due process requires that custodial statements be knowing and voluntary. When information is obtained from a young person using false or misleading information, the youth's constitutional right to remain silent is violated. Raised Bill 5589 would create a presumption that custodial statements obtained under false pretenses are inadmissible against the suspect. The State would be able to overcome this presumption by showing that the statement was voluntary in spite of the false information. This would ensure that all incriminatory information obtained from a criminal suspect is given in a knowing and voluntary manner, consistent with the Connecticut and United States Constitution. The Office of Chief Public Defender urges this Committee to report favorably on this proposal.