



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

ATTORNEY CHRISTINE PERRA RAPILLO  
DIRECTOR OF DELINQUENCY DEFENSE & CHILD PROTECTION

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
MARCH 3, 2014**

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

**Raised Bill 5602, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF INDIVIDUALS FROM THE  
STATE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY.**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of *Raised Bill 5602, An Act Concerning the Removal of Individuals from the State Child Abuse and Neglect Registry.* This proposal creates a process for people to petition to have their names removed from the state child abuse registry five years after being placed on the registry. The process proposed provides registrants an opportunity to show personal rehabilitation or changes in circumstances that no longer require that they be restricted in their access to children.

Inclusion on the Child Abuse Registry can have significant negative consequences for people. Placement on the registry can impact educational opportunities and employment options, even when those activities do not directly involve contact with children. Individuals on the registry cannot be involved with a child in DCF care and their presence in a home often results in the home being found unfit for licensing as a relative foster home.

There are a significant number of individuals who had substantiated findings of neglect or abuse when they were very young parents. As most of these people mature, the risk they present may diminish dramatically. There should be a process by which they can show that any threat they may have posed has diminished to the point where they no longer need to be included on a registry. This proposal provides due process to the applicant while giving the Commissioner enough discretion to ensure that children will remain safe. The Office of Chief Public Defender urges this Committee to report favorably on this proposed bill.