



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

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**Testimony of
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OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
FEBRUARY 5, 2015**

**Proposed Senate Bill 302
AN ACT CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF CONNECTICUT'S CHILD
PLACEMENT NEEDS.**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of ***Proposed Senate Bill 302, An Act Concerning the Identification of Connecticut's Child Placement Needs.*** This proposal would require the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to report annually on the treatment needs of children who have been placed in facilities outside Connecticut. The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of this proposal and respectfully suggests that such a report be required on **all** children in a congregate care setting. The Department of Children and Families has made significant efforts to reduce the number of children in congregate care, both in and out of state. Many more children are now provided treatment and services in their communities. However, a number of children still require a higher level of intervention and need to be placed in a therapeutic residential setting. The children who move to out of state facilities generally are those who need services that are unavailable in Connecticut. An annual study of all these children would help categorize any common needs and identify gaps in the current service continuum. Since needs change over time, ongoing study would help DCF plan for the most cost effective method of delivering service to this group of children. The Office of Chief Public Defender urges this Committee to act favorably on this proposal.