

## Office of Chief Public Defender State of Connecticut

30 TRINITY STREET, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106 TEL (860)509-6429 FAX (860-509-6499 susan.storey@jud.ct.gov ATTORNEY SUSAN O. STOREY CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

## TESTIMONY OF DEBORAH DEL PRETE SULLIVAN, LEGAL COUNSEL OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

Raised House Bill No.7288 An Act Concerning Court-Ordered Conditions in Pretrial Diversionary Programs Judiciary Committee March 20, 2017

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports Raised Bill 7288, An Act Concerning Court-Ordered Conditions in Pretrial Diversionary Programs. The bill does not eliminate the court's discretion to set conditions, while removing any requirement to always impose alcohol and drug testing as conditions for persons granted the Accelerated Rehabilitation or Pretrial Supervise Diversionary Program For Persons With Psychiatric Disabilities program, unless the offense is alcohol or drug related. The offenses covered pursuant to this bill would be breach of peace, disorderly conduct and motor vehicle violation that are not alcohol or drug related. As a result, conditions imposed would be relevant to these offenses and not ones that are always imposed in every case. In addition, the bill would prevent the transfer of persons charged with these offenses to drug-dependent dockets, where they may exist, when the offense was not alcohol or drug related. This is a more fair approach and may even saving financial resources of those agencies currently required to conduct such testing which is not necessary.