



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE PERRA RAPILLO CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
FEBRUARY 27, 2018

S.B. No. 188 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STATE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Office of the Chief Public Defender (OCPD) supports **S.B. No. 188 – An Act Establishing the State Oversight Council on Children and Families**. This bill revises the current duties, structure and membership of the State Advisory Council on Children and Families, which would be renamed by the bill as the State Oversight Council on Children and Families.

Under current law, the OCPD is not a statutory member of this council, which would now be charged with a host of important duties related to the safety, permanency and well-being of children. Given that OCPD's areas of responsibility include contracting with Assigned Counsel who represent parents and children in juvenile court child protection proceedings, and our own in-house public defenders also represent children in these proceedings, we welcome and appreciate the opportunity to participate on and contribute to the important work of this council.