



*Division of Public Defender Services  
State of Connecticut*

ATTORNEY CHRISTINE PERRA RAPILLO  
DIRECTOR OF DELINQUENCY DEFENSE & CHILD PROTECTION

**TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE RAPILLO  
DIRECTOR OF DELINQUENCY DEFENSE AND CHILD PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER**

**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN  
MARCH 3, 2015**

**RAISED BILL 1006, AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTARY SERVICES WITHIN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.**

The Office of the Chief Public Defender supports passage of ***Raised Bill 1006, An Act Concerning Voluntary Services within the Department of Children and Families.*** This proposal would amend Conn. Gen. State. 17a-11 to give the court authority to review case plans for children who are involved with the DCF Voluntary service program but remain placed in their homes. A prior amendment to Conn. Gen. Stat. 17a-11 gave the court the ability to conduct permanency reviews for children who were voluntarily placed out of their homes. This proposal also sets out the criteria for the court to consider in determining if a case plan is appropriate for a child and mandates that children over the age of 14 receive notice of the hearing and an opportunity to be heard. Finally, Raised Bill 1006 gives parents and children over the age of 14 the right to either an administrative appeal or a review by the probate court if voluntary services are discontinued by the Commissioner.

All of the proposals contained in Raised Bill 1006 serve to create a procedure for children, families and DCF to use as voluntary services are delivered and negotiated. Voluntary services often help a family maintain a child with special needs in the home and preserve the guardianship rights of parents. Because the nature of the service is voluntary, most of the time there are no disputes and families move in and out of the relationship with DCF without a need for outside interventions. However, the families who rely on these critical interventions deserve a fair process when the services are changed or discontinued. The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of this bill.