



***Office of Chief Public Defender
State of Connecticut***

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**Testimony of
Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director**

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - March 27, 2017

**Raised Bill 7307
An Act Concerning the
Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act and Pedestrian Stops**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of this bill which would require state and municipal police departments and other law enforcement to adopt a written policy prohibiting pedestrian stops, detentions or searches of persons whenever the basis for such is the person's race, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation in violation of their civil rights. People, including juveniles, are questioned by law enforcement and/or detained for such regarding criminal investigations. As a result of the recent Executive Orders pertaining to undocumented persons, it is believed that more people will be detained and/or questioned as to their immigration status.

The adoption of such a policy would ensure that civil rights are not violated based upon the color of a person's skin, their age, gender or sexual orientation. The Office of Chief Public Defender is currently a member of the Racial Profiling Task Force (RP3) and believes that RP3, would be in the best position to review this proposal and make recommendations pertaining to its implementation. Therefore, this Office respectfully requests that the proposal be referred to RP3.