



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

Attorney Christine Perra Rapillo
Chief Public Defender

30 Trinity Street, 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06410
(860) 509-6400

TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE PERRA RAPILLO, CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing – March 16, 2018

**RAISED BILL 466 AN ACT CONCERNING DUAL ARRESTS AND THE
TRAINING REQUIRED OF LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH RESPECT TO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of *Raised Bill 466, An Act Concerning Dual Arrests and the Training Required of Law Enforcement with Respect to Domestic Violence*. Arrests related to intimate partner violence (IPV) make up a significant amount of the workload of our adult criminal public defender offices. It is in everyone's best interest that the police have the ability to use discretion to arrest the most culpable party. Furthermore, our agency sees the collateral impact that dual arrest has on the parties, primarily but not exclusively women in a domestic violence situation. If there are children involved, a domestic violence arrest almost always result in a referral to the Department of Children and Families for investigation. An arrest and pending criminal case will impact a person's ability to fully participate in a DCF investigation and could result in ongoing involvement of child welfare authorities in the life of the primary caregiver.

This proposal would allow police to use a defined list of criteria to determine who the primary aggressor is in an intimate partner violence situation. The additional training included will help ensure that the criteria are applied correctly and that law enforcement have the tools they need to intervene in these sensitive cases. The Office of Chief Public Defender asks that this committee report favorable on the proposal.