



## State of Connecticut

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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#### Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel

#### Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - March 26, 2018

#### S.B. 520 - An Act Concerning a Study of the Criminal Laws In This State

#### H.B. 5567 - An Act Concerning a Study of the Laws of Civil Procedure and the Laws of Criminal Procedure of this State

While not opposed to **S.B. 520, An Act Concerning a Study of the Criminal Laws In This State**, or **H.B. 5567, An Act Concerning a Study of the Laws of Civil Procedure and the Laws of Criminal Procedure of this State** the Office of Chief Public Defender has two suggestions for the consideration of the Committee. First the bill is not necessary. Currently, the membership of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, created by the legislature in P A 10-129 (C.G.S. §54-300), effective February 1, 2011, is comprised of a diverse group from both the private and public sectors. The Connecticut Sentencing Commission has created subcommittees, working groups and a Steering Committee which have studied and worked together to improve the criminal justice system. The collaboration has resulted in a number of recommendations for legislative changes which have been proposed to the Judiciary Committee by the Sentencing Commission. A number of the recommendations have resulted in the adoption of important changes in criminal law. In the alternative, if this Committee desires to establish a separate body to study criminal laws, the Office of Chief Public Defender requests that it be included in the membership. Consideration may also be given to including the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyer Association (CCDLA) which represents the private criminal defense bar.