



## State of Connecticut

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

#### Office of Chief Public Defender

30 Trinity Street, 4th Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut  
(860) 509-6405 Telephone  
(860) 509-6495 Fax

#### Christine Perra Rapillo

Chief Public Defender  
Christine.Rapillo@jud.ct.gov

#### Deborah Del Prete Sullivan

Legal Counsel, Director  
deborah.d.sullivan@jud.ct.gov

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

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

#### H.B. 5571 - An Act Concerning Human Trafficking

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of **H.B. 5571 - An Act Concerning Human Trafficking**. As the designee of the Chief Public Defender who is a member of the Trafficking in Persons Council, I have participated in numerous thoughtful discussions about human trafficking and the issues presented related to victims and the criminal justice system. The Office of Chief Public Defender appreciates the recommendation to include a Public Defender as designated by the Chief Public Defender and a member of the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (CCDLA) which represents the private criminal defense bar as contained in Section 2.

Section 6 makes an important change to the current trafficking statute to require that the accused act "knowingly". By adding a "knowing" element to the offense of Trafficking in Persons, an arrest of an innocent person unknowingly assisting in the perpetrating of trafficking can be avoided. An example could be a cab driver unknowingly transporting a trafficking victim. In addition, the addition of the "knowingly" term mirrors a change endorsed by a number of other states.

Not included in this bill, however, was a recommendation of the Trafficking in Persons Council which would have included "patronizes or solicits" in line 140 after the current statutory language "compels or induces". This Office respectfully requests that "patronizes or solicits" be inserted as this, together with the other changes in Section 6 will then be representative of the entire agreement of the Trafficking membership in crafting its recommendation. Thank you for your consideration.