



## State of Connecticut

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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**Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel**  
**Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing - February 14, 2019**

**Proposed Bill 5363 - An Act Concerning an On-Line Registry for  
Convicted Murderers**

The Office of Chief Public Defender respectfully requests that this Committee take no action on **House Bill 5363 - An Act Concerning an On-Line Registry for Convicted Murderers**. This office has opposed previous efforts to create such a registry as registries have not proven to reduce recidivism. In fact, the existence of registries which maintain convictions publicly have created collateral consequences for offenders on such lists. Offenders on registries may experience increased difficulty in obtaining employment and housing because they are listed with their addresses. These offenders are generally grouped together without any explanation of the distinctive facts of the case with only the statutory reference of the offense for which they were convicted.

In regard to the risk of a threat to public safety, if any, such registries do not disclose whether the offender poses any such risk. As a result, the registry is merely a collection of names and addresses of persons based upon convictions of a certain statute. What results from the disclosure publicly on a registry of this information is increased speculation and/or perhaps an erroneous perception by the public about the offenders.

Over the past few years, the current Connecticut Sex Offender Registry has undergone intensive review by the Connecticut Sentencing Commission where such issues have been considered. The Office of Chief Public Defender believes that until evidence exists that clearly demonstrates that registries are effective in reducing crime and do not negatively impact upon offenders as they attempt to re-enter the community, the creation of further registries should not be endorsed. Therefore, this office requests that no action be taken on proposed House Bill 5363. Thank you for your consideration.