



## State of Connecticut

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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#### **Testimony of Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender**

#### **Raised Bill 1008, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE DISPARITIES IN PRETRIAL AND SENTENCING OUTCOMES OF CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS**

**Committee on the Judiciary - March 25, 2019**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports *Raised Bill 1008, An Act Concerning a Study of the Disparities in Pretrial and Sentencing Outcomes of Criminal Defendants*. The bill requires that the Connecticut Sentencing Commission study outcomes in criminal prosecutions, both at the pretrial and sentencing stages, to ascertain whether ethnic, racial, gender and/or socioeconomic disparities exist in the criminal justice system in this state. As the Chief Public Defender, I am a member of the Sentencing Commission. Due to its diverse membership, which is comprised of stakeholders in the criminal justice system, including prosecutors and the courts, academia and non-profit organizations, the Office of Chief Public Defender believes that the Sentencing Commission can fairly and thoroughly study this issue and identify where disparities might exist.