



## State of Connecticut

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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

#### **SB 1056 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ALLOTMENT REDUCTIONS FOR THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES AND DIVERSIONARY PROGRAMS.**

**Committee on the Judiciary**

**March 18, 2019**

The Office of Chief Public Defender thanks the committee for raising Senate Bill 1056, An Act Concerning Allotment Reductions for the Division of Public Defender Services and Diversionary Programs. We ask that the Committee take no action on Section 1 of this bill, which would address issues relating to how Division of Public Defender Services budget reductions are allocated between our agency and the Judicial Branch. S.B. 964, An Act Concerning Court Operations (specifically, section 3 of LCO 4983) takes steps to address this issue and testimony in support of that section was provided at the public hearing last week. We are grateful to our partners at Judicial for their collaboration in this matter and continue to ask for this Committee's support for S.B 964.

Section 2 of this bill would amend when the court files are sealed for certain diversionary programs. The language provides consistency to permit the sealing of the court file upon the filing of an application for the program. Diversionary programs are designed to allow the court to issue consequences to an accused without the stigma of a criminal record. A consistent standard for the sealing of records would give full effect to the intent of these programs.