



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 - March 10, 2020

Senate Bill 404 - An Act Establishing A Public Registry Of Persons Found Responsible For Assault Or Abuse Of Elderly Persons.

The Office of Chief Public Defender respectfully requests that this Committee take no action on *Senate Bill 404 - An Act Establishing a Public Registry of Persons Found Responsible for Assault or Abuse of Elderly Persons*. Consistent with its position in the past, this office opposes the creation of such registries as they have not been proven to reduce recidivism. Instead, such registries create numerous collateral consequences for persons convicted of criminal offenses.

Such person may experience increased difficulty in obtaining employment and housing because they are listed with their addresses. And registries generally post only the statute that has been violated without any explanation of the particular facts of the case. Further, registries do not disclose any information as to whether the person poses any risk of a threat to public safety. 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 persons on the registry. This then acts as a further obstacle for a person who is stigmatized as he/she are trying to successfully re-enter their community after completing the sentence imposed by the court.

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 Senate Bill 404. Thank you for your consideration.