



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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TESTIMONY OF DEBORAH DeI PRETE SULLIVAN, LEGAL COUNSEL OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

*Raised Senate Bill No. 153
An Act Concerning the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons*

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - February 24, 2006

The Office of Chief Public Defender participated on the *Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons*. The work of the task force and its two subcommittees was conducted through numerous meetings at which this agency participated in the discussion. The Office of Chief Public Defender requests passage of Raised Senate Bill No. 153. Passage of this bill would authorize the continuation of the work of the task force to allow a thorough review of the issues raised in subsection (d) (8) of Section One of the raised bill. In addition, this Office would endeavor to continue the discussion about the prosecution of persons charged with prostitution even when determined to be victims of trafficking.

Persons arrested for trafficking may be the clients of the Division of Public Defender Services. However, the interest of the Office of Chief Public Defender in pursuing the issues presented in this bill is also because persons arrested for prostitution, may not only be clients of the Division of Public Defender Services but also victims of trafficking. As a result, it is important to assure that their constitutional rights are protected and that they receive assistance as necessary so that they do not become a victim of trafficking again.