



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 20, 2006**

House Bill 5821, An Act Concerning Behavioral Health And Substance Abuse Services That Are Gender Specific And Trauma-Informed

Good afternoon. My name is Stephen Ment and I am here to testify on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to *House Bill 5821, An Act Concerning Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services That Are Gender Specific and Trauma-Informed*. This bill would mandate that behavioral health and substance abuse services provided by the state, or by entities under contract with the state, be gender specific and trauma-informed.

The Judicial Branch contracts with a large number of private providers which perform myriad services. If this bill were to pass, it would have a significant impact on our network of services. CSSD would be obligated to both substantially change services, add services, and change culture in existing programs, and separate men and women in programs that are currently not gender specific. The cost implications for service changes and additions are significant. Therefore, if the Committee acts favorably upon this bill, we would respectfully request that it be referred to the Appropriations Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER
30 TRINITY STREET - 4th Floor
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

DEBORAH DEL PRETE SULLIVAN
LEGAL COUNSEL/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER
(860) 509-6405 Telephone
(860) 509-6495 Fax

deborah.d.sullivan@po.state.ct.us

Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel

Raised House Bill No. 5699 An Act Concerning the Implementation of Certain Requirements Protecting Children of Families With Services Needs

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing March 20, 2006

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of *Raised House Bill No. 5699, An Act Concerning the Implementation of Certain Requirements Protecting Children of Families With Services Needs*. This bill would create a Families With Service Needs Advisory Board which would assist in the implementation of *P.A. 05-250, An Act Concerning Children of Families With Service Needs*.

Currently children who violate court orders are prosecuted and convicted as juvenile delinquents and placed in detention centers even though they have not committed any crime. *Public Act 05-250*, effective October 1, 2007, decriminalizes a child in a Family With Service Needs (FWSN) and eliminates the prosecution and conviction as juvenile delinquents those children with family service needs for non-compliance with court orders imposed to regulate future conduct. However, prior to the effective date of this act, preparations are necessary to assure that services and appropriate placement alternatives exist for such children that are in need of such.

Therefore the Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of this proposed bill.