



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. 5780 An Act Concerning Safe Schools

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing March 24, 2006

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of *Raised House Bill No. 5780, An Act Concerning Safe Schools*. Currently, a person who is convicted of possessing or selling a controlled substance or possession of drug paraphernalia faces a mandatory prison sentence if he/she was within 1500 feet of a school, day care center or a public housing project. This is so even if he/she is arrested for such activity and the location of the offense has no nexus to a school, daycare or housing project. For example, currently a person could be arrested for violation of such while driving on a state highway which is within 1500 feet of a school. The current law which provides for a boundary of 1500 feet and the enhanced penalties especially impact upon persons arrested in urban areas as the number of schools, daycares and housing projects are significantly higher in cities than in suburban areas.

This bill would reduce the boundary from one thousand five hundred feet to two hundred feet. This boundary would measure from the perimeter of the real property of a school, daycare or housing project and continue to authorize prosecution and enhanced penalties for the possession or sale of controlled substances or possession of drug paraphernalia within such.

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