



*Office of Chief Public Defender
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**TESTIMONY OF
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**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 4, 2007**

RAISED BILL NO. 6670

An Act Concerning the Standards for Defining a Family with Service Needs with Respect to Juvenile Matters

The Office of Chief Public Defender respectfully request that the Committee **not** delete the provision that includes as part of the Family With Service Needs definition a child thirteen years of age or older "who has engaged in sexual intercourse with another person and such person is thirteen years of age or older and not more than two years older or younger than such child." This provision has allowed many children to receive much needed services without criminal penalty. There are also often cases that arise in juvenile court that cannot be easily prosecuted as criminal, but can be pursued under the FWSN provisions. Leaving this language in as part of the FWSN definition serves both public safety as well as the children brought before the court.