



**State of Connecticut**  
**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY  
300 CORPORATE PLACE  
ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT 06067  
(860) 258-5800

**Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice**

**S.B. No. 1013 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS TO  
MAKE FORENSIC NURSING SERVICES AVAILABLE TO PATIENTS**

*Joint Committee on Public Health – February 14, 2007*

The Division of Criminal Justice commends the Public Health Committee for its consideration of this issue and the recognition of the importance of providing adequate forensic nursing services. While it is not our intention to intrude into matters that are properly left to the health care professionals, we believe there are significant legal issues that must be addressed in your consideration of this bill.

We urge the Committee to be very careful to assure that this legislation meets patient needs without adversely impacting the criminal justice system and our ability to investigate and prosecute criminal matters. Criminal cases can be difficult enough to win in the courtroom; we certainly do not want to lose them in the emergency room. It is imperative that you fully consider all applicable law and legal principles, keeping in mind that you are dealing with the very restrictive rules of evidence and criminal procedure as you proceed in this area.

The Division of Criminal Justice is willing to work with the Committee and all interested parties to assure that these issues are properly addressed. At the same time, we must stress from the outset that the Division is not the appropriate agency to oversee or administer in any way any sort of forensic nursing initiative. To involve the Division directly in such a process would raise serious legal issues that could jeopardize our ability to successfully prosecute the criminal matters at stake.

The Division stands ready to provide additional information should the Committee desire, and to work with you to properly address this important issue.

Thank you.