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**Testimony of
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*Raised House Bill No. 7215
An Act Concerning Transcripts of Court Proceedings
in Certain Criminal Matters*

*Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
February 26, 2007*

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of *Raised House Bill No. 7215, An Act Concerning Transcripts of Court Proceedings in Certain Criminal Matters*. This legislation would eliminate disparity and duplicative payments for the provision of transcripts as it exists by statute. Currently, subsection (d) of C.G.S. §51-61 requires the court reporter to **automatically** provide a free copy of a transcript to the state's attorney, assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney whenever it has been ordered by a party of record. However, there is no such requirement that the court reporter automatically provide a free copy of any transcripts ordered by the prosecution to public defenders and special public defenders who represent defendants in criminal proceedings.

Raised House Bill No. 7215, as drafted, provides that any transcript ordered by the prosecution or the public defenders would be provided "at no cost" to both. This differs from the language and intent of the original proposal from the Office of Chief Public Defender which provided that the court reporter could charge once for the transcript and the parties, here the Division of Criminal Justice (prosecutors) and the Division of Public Defender Services (public defenders) would share the cost, regardless of which party ordered the transcript. The proposed bill should also include language that the court reporters must furnish the copies to the appropriate parties.

The ability to share costs has worked effectively between the two agencies in appellate and other criminal proceedings where both the defendant and the state openly acknowledge that they require the same transcript. As a process already exists for reciprocal payment and the result is financially positive for the state, it makes sense that the financial cost be shared for all necessary transcripts during the pendency of the criminal prosecution.