



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice

In Support of:

**S.B. No. 1372 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR STALKING
A PROSECUTOR**

Joint Committee on Judiciary – March 12, 2007

The Division of Criminal Justice supports S.B. No. 1372, An Act Concerning the Penalty for Stalking a Prosecutor, and respectfully recommends the Committee's Joint Favorable Report. This bill would provide that the crime of stalking is a class D felony when the victim is being stalked as a result of his or her work as a prosecutor. The Division of Criminal Justice believes this is an appropriate penalty for such conduct.

The fact that prosecutors can become targets of stalking, threats or other criminal activity in retaliation for the performance of their professional duties is well-documented. We have instances right here in Connecticut where a prosecutor was placed in the Witness Protection Program and assigned state police troopers to protect her home and family.

In other states, prosecutors have been killed by individuals whom they had prosecuted or sought to prosecute. Threats against prosecutors are unfortunately not that uncommon. According to the United States Department of Justice, 40 percent of the prosecutors' offices responding to the 2005 National Survey of Prosecutors reported receiving work-related threats. Fifty-seven percent of those offices serving a population of 250,000 to 999,999 reported having received work-related threats. These include threatening letters, threatening calls, threats made in person or battery and/or assault.

For several years the Division of Criminal Justice has advocated steps to better protect the dedicated men and women who serve our State – and the interests of justice – as prosecutors. S.B. No. 1372 is a step in that direction and we would respectfully recommend the Committee's Joint Favorable Report.

Thank you.